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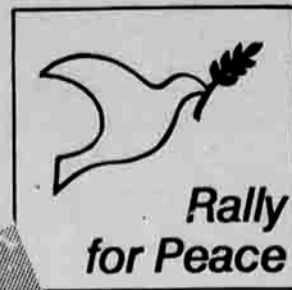
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# We Forum

To seek and live the truth and share a vision



Rally  
for Peace

VOL 13 \* NO. 174

APRIL 4-10, 1990

IN METRO MANILA

1992 Presidential race

## CORY: IS SHE OR ISN'T SHE?

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CORY during snap elections.



**SUPPORT FOR CORY:** President Aquino receives a copy of the resolution expressing the "total and unqualified" support of the Integrated Bar of the Philippines (IBP) from its president Eugene A. Tan (second from left) during a courtesy call at Malacanang. Also in photo are IBP Governor Benedicto II. Alo and IBP Executive Vice President Numeriano Tanopo, Jr.

### A close look into RP's drought crisis

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*Experts score  
flaws in agrarian  
reform law*

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### Marital rape law faces rough sailing



GUINGONA

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# Coup and bases in the Philippines

(Conclusion)

By DANIEL BOONE SCHIRMER

In the August 1987 coup attempt two military attaches from the U.S. Embassy were revealed to have been with the rebels as they were fighting, and Defense Secretary Ramos brought forward evidence that one of them had advised loyalist troops not to fire on the rebels. As a result the Philippine press carried the charge that the U.S. government was pursuing a two-track policy, publicly supporting Aquino and privately comforting her military enemies, in order to weaken her and make her more prone to U.S. control -- a process the most recent coup seems to have completed.

The Washington Post of December 3 carried a story that President Bush refused to allow U.S. jet fighters to bomb and strafe because "U.S. officials could not rule out that American advisers or military visitors were on the bases that had been commandeered by the rebels." Other than this there seems to have been no reference in the U.S. press to U.S. military personnel in the company of the rebels as the revolt took place. Questions have been raised, however, in the Philippine press about possible U.S. relations with Honasan.

Captured after the failure of the August 1987 coup, Honasan was imprisoned on a ship in Manila harbor. In April 1988 (as the previous base negotiations began) he escaped with several of his prison guards on a rubber raft. He landed, according to veteran Manila journalist Luis R. Mauricio, at a wharf behind the U.S. Embassy, then and there disappearing from view. Mauricio commented at the time that it was to the Pentagon's advantage

to have Honasan at large since in this way he served as a pressure point against Aquino in the matter of the bases.(8)

Then on November 18, 1989, about two weeks before the 6th revolt, Honasan held a well-attended press conference in Manila to announce that he planned another coup.(9)

It would be interesting to know what the Aquino military did after this announcement. In view of President Bush's declaration of unqualified support for Presi-

seeming inactivity on the part of those officially committed to the support of President Aquino, whether in the Philippine military, the JUSMAG or the CIA: a degree of complicity with the military enemies of Aquino, maximum toleration of them, or ineffective opposition to them.

One answer is on record in response to such inquiries. On November 21, three days after the rebel leader's warning, Aquino's Armed Forces Chief, General Renato de Villa, told the press



COUP plotters: For the bases?

dent Aquino, the same question could be asked of the JUSMAG and the Manila station of the CIA, whose responsibility it is to intervene in Philippine affairs to further U.S. policy. Colonel Honasan made his announcement on November 18; on December 1 his coup took place. Judging from the ease and efficiency with which it occurred, nothing much happened in this interim to impede his plans. There could be several reasons (taken separately or in some combination) for this

that Honasan's announcement was nothing new, "we should not be disturbed."(10) Make of that what you will.

The effects of the latest coup on the question of U.S. bases in the Philippines have been several and varied.

In the first days of the revolt, a staff writer for the Washington Post commented: "The Pentagon ... faces a rising tide of public opposition in the Philippines to the continued presence of the U.S. bases."(11) A central problem facing propo-

nents of the bases is, therefore, the matter of public opinion. At the present moment a majority of Filipinos believe they should stay.(12) (Just before the revolt an Aquino-endorsed bill for an early referendum to make manifest this pro-bases support was rejected by the Senate, another source of aggravation to bases proponents.) The fact is, however, that this pro-bases majority is shrinking, while the anti-bases opinion is growing, due to widespread nationalist agitation. To check or silence this anti-bases agitation would accordingly be helpful to the cause of base retention.

Here again the combined pressures of both rebel and loyalist military, augmented this time by overt U.S. military intervention, had effects that can be already seen. An article in Business Week of December 18, 1989, discussed the results of the coup attempt and reported: "Foreign Secretary Raul Man-

a five year phase-out period in view of the urgent necessity to upgrade the equipment of the Armed Forces of the Philippines," the memo said.

A U.S. congressional source, quoted in the Washington Post of December 3, put the matter more bluntly, predicting that,

*If a new agreement can be reached between the two governments, its ratification by the Philippines Parliament might now be easier because a number of elected deputies and senators may have become afraid that if the U.S. bases are 'thrown out, they will be out too.'*

Thus the immediate effect of the December revolt has been to render implausible Aquino's cover of ambiguity about base renewal, to cause her chief negotiator Raul Manglapus to pull back from further talk against the bases, and to bring some fractious senators into line. All this, before the important negotiations on the bases are to open.

U.S. Asian specialists agreed that the December revolt, and particularly Bush's intervention, would have a great and direct impact on Philippine public opinion, and hence on the base negotiations. But they disagreed as to whether its effect would be helpful or harmful to the cause of retention.(13) One possibility was indicated by the burst of nationalist indignation, reported in the U.S. press, that condemned the U.S. fighter jet over-flight as an affront to Philippine national sovereignty, for which the bases were to blame. On the other hand Philippine opinion may be influenced by the U.S. government's interpretation of these events, as expressed by Representative Solarz. He very quickly hailed the Bush intervention as proof that the bases were needed to defend Philippine democracy.(14)

After the revolt, however, the hopes of Philippine democracy that Aquino had at first carried like a cloak seemed more tattered and bedraggled than ever. A Philippine analyst familiar with rebel thinking described her as "completely surrounded now by the army."(15) A

foreign businessman "with extensive links to a Western intelligence agency" made a similar estimate: "I think Aquino is finished even if she serves out the rest of her term... it's inevitable that a military government, in one form or another, is going to emerge from this."(16)

Under the guise of preparing against new coups Aquino has assumed certain limited emergency powers, which Rodolfo Albano, a member of the Philippine House of Representatives, warned were only a precursor of martial law. (17) Besides offering the potential of use against those who oppose U.S. bases in the Philippines, such measures could also be used against Philippine labor, made restive by the rise in prices and the cost of living.

The suppression of Philippine democracy and a nationalist congress under the martial law of dictator Marcos worked well for U.S. supporters of the bases for quite a while. Martial law with a democratic figurehead like Aquino might serve even better, if only from the standpoint of public relations.

On December 20th something happened on the other side of the globe that threw light on recent events in the Philippines: President Bush invaded Panama and overthrew the government of General Noriega. Evidently Washington (after keeping Noriega on the CIA payroll for years, drug taint and all) had decided that the General was too independent, too nationalistic, too difficult to control. It followed that it was necessary to get rid of Noriega before January 1st when a Noriega-appointed administrator of the Panama Canal would take office. The same need held for the coming decade when the future of the U.S. military bases in Panama would be decided; here a more tractable Panamanian government would, obviously, be preferable. Panamanian bases house the U.S. Southern Command that facilitates U.S. military intervention in Latin America, just as Philippine bases further U.S. intervention in Asia and the Mideast. Since it had been

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# Cory hints on seeking another term in 1992

By ERIC GIRON

**D**ESPITE AN impediment in the Constitution ratified in 1987 disqualifying Corazon C. Aquino from seeking another term for President, there are strong indications that she will bid to stay in power.

The report that Imelda Romualdez Marcos may be drafted by Marcos loyalists as presidential candidate in 1992 has reawakened political speculations. The Aquino camp dismissed the Imelda candidacy as "loony" or "misdirected" in the face of the ex-First Lady's trial on racketeering charges in New York.

But Imelda's supporters are hopeful she will be acquitted and will return to the Philippines in time for the 1992 election.

Politicians insist the 1992 poll is still a long way off, that the press, not they, is escalating political speculations. Is two years really that far away? Then why the frequency of President Aquino's barnstorming visits to the different provinces, switching on an electric power plant here and opening an irrigation system there?

Then there was the recent announcement by irrepressible Miriam Defensor Santiago, who shook up the Commission on Immigration and Deportation but was spurned by the Commission on Appointments as Secretary of Agrarian Reform, that she is available as presidential bet.

Senator Juan Ponce Enrile, facing a charge of rebellion complexed with other crimes, also aired his ambition to be the Nacionalista Party choice as top candidate for 1992.

The simmering political pot was stoked further by Speaker Ramon Mitra, Jr.'s call for Mrs. Aquino to formally assume the titular lead-

ership of the *Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino* (the administration party) at an LDP rally in Koronadal (South Cotabato). Mitra sounded off in the presence of the LDP president, Senator Neptali Gonzales, and secretary general, Rep. Jose Cojuangco, young brother of Mrs. Aquino.

Mrs. Aquino is again playing coy. In a political maneuver, she rejected the LDP offer that she rule the party, saying politics and the 1992 issue should be set aside in the meantime because the people expect her "to implement programs and to improve their welfare." She singled out poverty and peace and order as the nation's foremost problems.

But she did not rule out making a comeback in 1992: "Because if we do not deliver now, what can we present to the people in 1992? Of course, they want to see the score card or report card of every presidential aspirant."

The configuration of the different political parties will depend on whether or not Mrs. Aquino will make a bid to remain in power in 1992.

Asked by local and foreign newsmen if she would seek the presidency anew, President Aquino's standard answer was that she is "merely a transition President from the dictatorship to a democratic form of government." After her term, she said she intends to write her memoirs.

Besides, Section 4, Article VII of the Constitution ratified in 1987 on the election of a President for six years says: "The President shall



CORY: To the hustings?

not be eligible for any re-election. No person who has succeeded as President and has served as such for more than four years shall be qualified for election to the same office at any time."

Unless Congress amends this provision with the required majority vote, Mrs. Aquino is ineligible as presidential candidate in 1992. However, she has shown on more than one occasion a predilection to disregard constitutional provisions. In

such case, the Supreme Court may have to decide on the validity of her candidacy. Rep. Lorna Verano-Yap of the Liberal Party is among those who believe Mrs. Aquino is earnest in saying she will not seek a new term. Yap called for public support to Mrs. Aquino to at least complete her coup-ridden term. Senators Aquilino Pimentel Jr., Ernesto Maceda and Joseph Estrada seconded her.

President Aquino's family and kin who stand to benefit by her incumbency are pressuring her to remain in office. Even if Mrs. Aquino has decided not to run, a columnist said she is riding on the back of a tiger and if she gets off, the tiger will swallow her. She and her kin have made enemies during her administration. To protect their interests and to have the vantage point, she has to remain in power.

This, notwithstanding the Constitution's impediment, her ineptitude as administrator, and her persecution of oppositionists. Even the so-called "Parliament of the Streets" which used to march in anti-Marcos rallies with Mrs. Aquino on Ayala Avenue in Makati in 1985 now look upon her as The Establishment. The widespread demonstrations of these reactionary groups against injustice and human rights violations, low wages, oil price hikes, and the Aquino subservience to the United States government attest to their disaffection with their former leader and idol. Some of them, of course, have struck it rich in the Aquino administration.

## PROSPECTIVE BETS

In case Mrs. Aquino makes her bid for President, Senator Maceda said her most probable running mate will be Speaker Ramon Mitra Jr. Mitra, who is known to have presidential ambitions, was pressured to step down as LDP president in favor of Senator Neptali Gonzales supposedly by a powerful bloc led by Rep. Jose Cojuangco.

In view of the dim chances of his making the presidential nomination by the LDP, Mitra has been tapping the Parliamentary

form of government in lieu of the present Presidential system in the hope that his House colleagues would elect him Prime Minister.

Senate President Jovito Salonga, Liberal Party titular head, is generally accepted as the LP candidate for President in 1992. Being groomed as his vice presidential running mate is Senator Joseph Estrada, who has made no commitment to this effect.

Asked if his frequent visits to the provinces form part of his campaign for 1992, Estrada said his main objective is to promote the Liberal Party's anti-US bases sentiment in the countryside. Another Liberal, Rep. Lorna Yap, said at least their party had a platform unlike other political parties.

When election time comes around, Senator Aquilino S. Pimentel Jr., whose PDP-Laban (Partido Demokratiko Pilipino-Lakas ng Bayan) and Salonga's LP wing formally launched Mrs. Aquino's candidacy in 1985, said the political coalitions will solidify or split up.

Pimentel, who is regarded as presidential timber, has shown unqualified loyalty to Mrs. Aquino even after she removed him as Local Governments Secretary. For the present, he is silent on his moves for 1992.

If Senator Enrile is seriously gunning for the presidency, he will spark off a three-cornered squabble in the Nacionalista Party with Vice President Salvador H. Laurel (party president) and newly-affiliated Eduardo Cojuangco Jr.—the trio singled out by President Aquino as her enemies and destabilizers during the EDSA rallies.

(Next page, please)

Enrile, with Gen. Fidel Ramos (then Armed Forces deputy chief of staff), actually triggered the EDSA "Bloodless Revolution" by formally announcing his breakaway from President Ferdinand E. Marcos on Feb. 22, 1986 in a press conference at the National Defense Department in Camp Aguinaldo.

There are parties who say Enrile broke off because Marcos was going to fire him as Minister of National Defense. Mrs. Aquino looks upon him as the jailer of her husband, Ninoy.

Doy Laurel, disenchanted with Mrs. Aquino after she named him Prime Minister, then abolished the Batasang Pambansa which he was to head, quit the Foreign Affairs Department secretaryship. Since then he has been operating on his own and is not seen at Cabinet meetings in Malacanan. He takes any opportunity to take potshots at Mrs. Aquino and her administration.

Danding Cojuangco fled to the United States with the Marcos party and had been residing there until he sneaked back to the Philippines last year. Danding and his first cousin, Rep. Jose Cojuangco, have been politically at odds in Tarlac province. Mrs. Aquino is nursing this deep-seated feud against Danding whom she also

implicated as among the coup plotters against her.

Enrile's presidential bid must have got Laurel worried because at the NP convention they will have to slug it out.

Balloons have been floated in media here and abroad on the chances of the American-anointed Defense Secretary Fidel Ramos as presidential timber. "Aside from him, who else do we have?" a Washington official was quoted as saying. Ramos has organized paramilitary groups called CAFGU (Civilian Armed Forces Government Units) over the country which are seen as a possible nucleus for his political base. One politico said Ramos dropped a hint to the Liberal Party that he is available for 1992.

#### POLITICAL MACHINE

Prospective candidates for President cannot win without a political machine: this is the consensus of the politicians and the public. Senators Estrada and Maceda pointed out that the political parties themselves will seek out party-less candidates like Ramos and Miriam D. Santiago if they are considered worthy.

There is the case of Ramon Magsaysay, President Elpidio Quirino's popular secretary of national defense. When the Liberal

Party groomed Quirino for re-election in 1953, Magsaysay bolted the LP and accepted the Nacionalista Party offer as its banner candidate. Magsaysay's landslide victory has yet to be matched by a Philippine presidential candidate.

When Diosdado Macapagal sought re-election in 1965 under the Liberal Party headed by Senate President Ferdinand E. Marcos, the latter switched to the Nacionalista Party which nominated him as its presidential bet over Emmanuel Pelaez, a confirmed Nacionalista. Marcos was elected President.

These two Presidents were elected on the ticket of the rival party of their former political party.

#### SOLID OPPOSITION?

There is current talk about solidifying the Opposition to put up only one candidate for President against that of the LDP. During Marcos' entire regime, the splintered Opposition failed to put up a solid front because of the individual ambitions of the various party heads.

Marcos perpetuated himself in power by proclaiming martial law on Sept. 21, 1972. He established the **Kilusang Bagong Lipunan** (New Society Party) whose members replaced majority of the



TRYING IT ON: Presidential return bout.

governors and mayors in the 1980 local polls and dominated the Batasang Pambansa.

When Marcos called for a presidential election after lifting martial law on Jan. 17, 1981, neither Salvador H. Laurel who had organized the Unido (United National Democratic Organization) nor Jose J. Roy, who headed one NP faction (the other was headed by Jose B. Laurel Jr.), ran against Marcos. It was rumored that Marcos actually financed NP lameduck Alejo Santos as a token Opposition candidate. Marcos swept the polls.

When Marcos acceded to "seek the mandate of the people" in a snap election on Nov. 3, 1985, the Convenors listed 12 majority candidates and a few minor ones for President. The Convenors boycotted a National Unification Committee meeting in Pasig. Salvador Laurel organized a Council of Leaders represented by 18 political parties. But Aquilino Pimentel Jr. refused to coalesce his PDP-Laban which, he said, had a different platform from the Unido's. Eva

Estrada Kalaw's LP wing seceded from the Unido.

Eventually, Joaquin (Chino) P. Roces delivered more than one million signatures backing up Cory Aquino for President against Marcos. Pimentel's PDP-Laban and Salonga's LP wing launched Cory's candidacy. Salvador Laurel withdrew his candidacy for President and ran as vice president under the Aquino ticket, using the Unido as their unifying party.

Marcos proclaimed Arturo M. Tolentino as his vice-presidential mate at the Manila Hotel convention of the KBL. The rest is history. Up to now, Mrs. Aquino believes Marcos cheated her and considers herself winner despite the Batasang Pambansa's proclamation of the Commission on Elections returns showing Marcos the victor by 1,515,481 majority over Cory Aquino out of the 10,807,197 votes cast.

Instead of having a recount of the ballots, Mrs. Aquino abolished the Batasang Pambansa and managed to wangle the presidency some

other way. And now despite her repeated denials, she appears to be on the campaign trail for 1992.

Despite Corazon Aquino's bungling and bumbling through four years of maladministration, the overspending of a budget bloated 200 times more than the biggest Marcos budget, and serving on a silver platter Philippine territory for US bases after signing a commitment with the Convenors in 1985 to work against the presence of the bases, she is still being boosted for another term which the Constitution prohibits.

Four years have in fact been too long for astronomical prices of staples, inflation, the plunging peso, widespread poverty, dependence on dollar loans despite a heavy foreign debt and a P2.5 billion trade deficit.

Senate President Jovito Salonga led the Liberal Party in a national congress against coup d'etat attended by 20,000 people at the Araneta Coliseum the other Sunday in a move to safeguard the Aquino government. The congress advocated against the use of violence to change the government and to resist military junta.

The impatient rebels, however, cannot wait for 1992. They are resorting to a more drastic way to get rid of this infernal administration--through coup d'etat.



LAUREL, ENRILE, RAMOS: Who'll be it?

#### EXTRA-JUDICIAL SETTLEMENT OF ESTATE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late ARSENIO G. NIPES who died intestate at Otis, Paco, Manila on March 10, 1978 was extrajudicially settled among his heirs namely: Celerina, Marcelino, Edgardo and Antonio all surnamed Nipes executed before and docketed as Doc. No. 311, Page No. 63, Book No. 1, series of 1990, Notary Public Atty. Conrado E. Panlaque, Jr.

WE FORUM  
March 21, 28 & April 4, 1990

By AMANDO C. DAYRIT

**F**ROM THE high-rise buildings in Metro Manila to the baked ricefields in the outlying provinces, the big dry is on. It is now common especially in some areas of Metro Manila not to have water for days and for the farmers to continuously pray for rain. The same is

Is there really a drought? If the brownouts and the frequent water lack are not portents, then what is? Another omen early this year has been the declining water level in the various watersheds of the country. Water levels at the Angat, Magat, Pantabangan and Ambuklao dams had dropped from 8.11 to 35.44 meters below their normal levels. Pantabangan showed the steepest decline with water inflow in January averaging only nine percent of the usual average. Angat and Magat registered only 33 and 28 percent respectively, while Ambuklao recorded the highest rate at 61 percent. At La Mesa Dam, water level had gone down four (4) meters below the critical level during the third week of January.

Local experts have attributed and delimited the present drought to so-called rainfall anomalies and lack of typhoons. According to PAGASA, in October 1989 rains were below average in Bicol, western Visayas and southern Mindanao despite the usual start of the northeast monsoon. In November 1989, western sections of the country and northern Luzon

had below normal rains. December was particularly worse they said since most of the country got less than 40 percent of their average rainfall.

Similarly, PAGASA pointed out that only eight (8) typhoons passed over the Philippines in 1989 despite a yearly average of 19 typhoons. They speculate that changes in the global movements of wind systems may have caused the shifting of typhoon positions.

#### DEFINING DROUGHT

The word drought comes from the Anglo-Saxon word *drugoth*, which means dry ground. On the other hand meteorologists classify drought into three kinds namely meteorological, agricultural and hydrological drought.

Meteorological drought is defined "as a specified percentage reduction in precipitation over a given period of time." In such a drought, there might be a reduction in precipitation but it might still be favorable for crop growth and development. Agricultural drought is defined as "the lack of adequate soil moisture to sustain crop

true also for the businessmen who are bound to suffer as brownouts will now be a daily ritual. The joke of saving water by showering with one's steady is likewise no longer funny. So much so that a presidential edict has been issued banning even the watering of lawns.

growth and production" (Wang'ati, 1985). Hydrological drought is a reduction in streamflow which adversely affects human activities, like cultivation of areas near rivers and other bodies of water. Meteorological drought is defined "As a specified percentage reduction in precipitation over a given period of time" (Glantz, 1987).

For scientists, classifying drought is essential in analyzing the drought problem. But for the farmer or the urban dwellers, definition does not matter. The bottomline for them is whether there is water or not.

#### DROUGHT'S AFTERMATHS

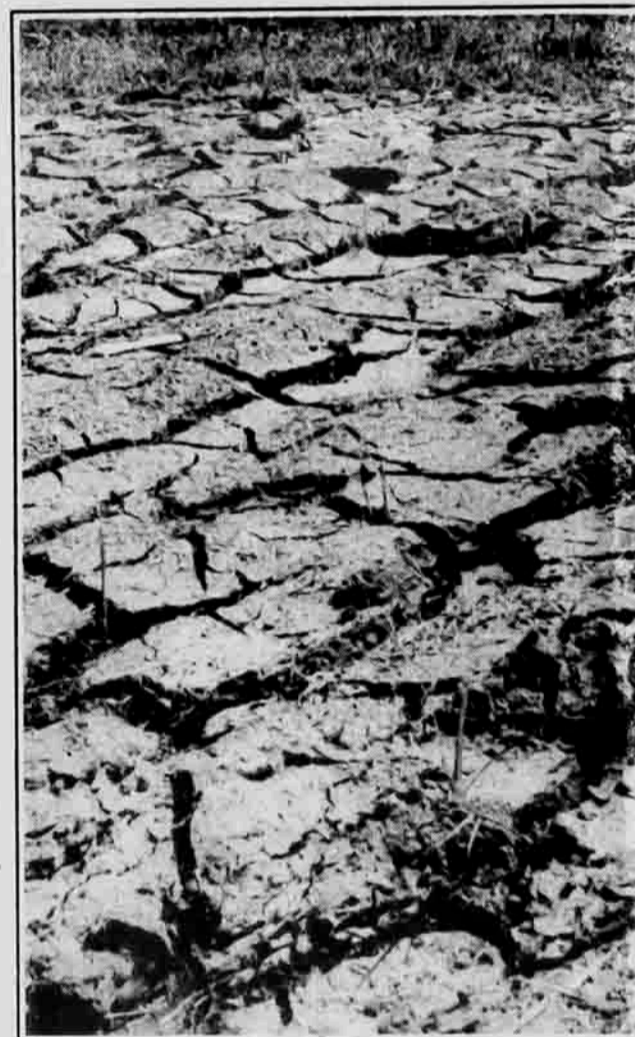
As of mid-March 1990, the drought in the Philippines according to the Department of Agriculture (DA) has already caused damages amounting to P314.40 million and opportunity losses at P1.75 billion. A total of 241,143 hectares of agricultural lands have been affected of which 148,408 hectares are ricelands, 87,651 hectares are cornlands and the rest are planted to other crops. Of the P314.40 million esti-

mated damages, P134.74 million is from rice, P169.86 million is from corn, and P9.84 million is from other crops. Not yet estimated at this point are the losses from livestock, trade, the cost of artificial rain making, and the dry top soil which will be blown away by angry winds.

Initially, the effects of drought will result in declining food availability and consequential increase in food prices, declining nutritional status particularly among children and scarcer water for irrigation and drinking. With the farmers presently besotted by pricing problems, the forecast is particularly devastating. They will be induced to slaughter their livestock early with nowhere to graze and no water to drink. On the other hand, this will create a glut of meat with the farmers at the losing end. With the return of the rains, farmers will again be hard put because of the reduction of their draft animals. The drought will also induce commodity prices especially rice and corn to soar as supply become scarce. In short, food availability declines.

If the drought becomes prolonged during the same season, said problems will intensify. In addition, it induces and accelerates migration from rural to urban centers or from rural to the uplands. This is because with farm bankruptcy and the lack of food and opportunities, rural people affected by prolonged drought will be forced to migrate. For instance, farmers who grow cash crops become more vulnerable to food shortages. During a prolonged drought, they are unable to grow enough food to subsist or to generate the income from their drought-decimated cash crops to buy food. The other effect of this migration is that it lessens the agricultural work force needed for food production and puts

# IS THE SKY FALLING DOWN?



**FARMS: Drying up.**

more pressures on the urban centers.

If after the dry season, the drought persists through the wet season, a hunger season begins where it will be marked by wild food uses, extremely high food prices, increase distress borrowing and sales, high prevalence of disease and morbidity.

If said drought becomes prolonged and again extends towards the wet season and pre-harvest season, it will be extremely harsh. Food prices

go even higher as food supply vanishes. Increase in distress sales of livestock, stored grain and household goods likewise increases. Food gathering especially in the rural areas increases. During such conditions, crop seeds may be eaten which will affect future crop planting while plants not usually eaten will be eaten. For humans, the children will be the first prey. Children's ill-

(Next page, please)



**FOREST DESTRUCTION: The price is high.**

nesses, morbidity and mortality increases. In essence, a prolonged drought will make the country's farmlands a national disaster.

Areas which depend on rivers, lakes and canals for transport will be threatened since a drought will drastically lower their water level. Similarly, lowered lakes and rivers mean more danger of sewage, industrial wastes and agricultural chemicals tainting water and recreation areas. This is because in normal times, surface water flushes away the pollutants.

Fire becomes an ever present danger. Particularly vulnerable in the Philippines are the marginal lands and residual forests especially in Regions 1, 3, 6, 7, and 8.

#### DROUGHT-FAMINE NEXUS

Will the present drought bring famine? Based on the historical record of drought-plagued regions in the world, famine does not necessarily follow drought. For example in sub-Saharan Africa, 31 countries were declared to have drought-related food shortage. Yet, only five namely Mozambique, Angola, Chad, Ethiopia and the Sudan were plagued by famine.

Drought, however, can set the stage for famine, especially if there are a series of droughts. Famine, according to Currey and Hugo (1984, p.1) "is a community crisis: a syndrome with webs of causation through which communities lose their ability to support marginal members who consequently either migrate in families because of lack of access to food, or die of starvation-related disease."

In general, most countries can withstand one drought year. A second year of drought, however, is more difficult to survive much more a third or a lengthy run of droughts. An example of prolonged droughts has been the case of West African Sahel and Ethiopia.

Experts recommend that the linkage between famine and drought should be made on a case to case basis since it varies from one region to another. This is because sometimes, food supply

problems are not the result of climate-related factors. Rather, they may be due to maldistribution of food resources, inability of the poorer classes to buy food, or due to internecine conflicts. Amartya Sen (1986, p.2) noted that "the common predicament of mass starvation does not imply any one common fundamental cause. Droughts, floods, general inflationary pressure, sharp recessional loss of employment, and so on, can all in their own way deprive large sections of the population of entitlement to adequate food."

What authorities should guard against during drought situations is that some sectors of society like rich landholders and traders may benefit greatly from the poorer majority. This may specially be true during planting seasons while the nutritional status of the poor is very low as well as in situations where food demand is greater than the supply.

#### THE CASH CROP SYNDROME

Some experts attribute famine to meteorological drought equating famine with decreased agricultural production which in turn is affected by lack of precipitation. The danger from such an observation is that policy makers may fall to the cash crop syndrome, wherein technological solutions like planting more drought-resistant crops, planting high-yield varieties, etc. will be made to defray the agricultural production deficits in drought-stricken areas. This solution tends to promote cash crops for export rather than food production for domestic consumption. Of course, this leads to more food imports.

#### GLOBAL TREND AND THEORIES ON DROUGHT

To veer away from a local perspective on the probable causes of drought, it is important to note from a global perspective that there have been two periods of intensified global climate anomalies, especially drought,

within this century. The first one was in 1972-1973 and the second one was in 1982-1983. Said periods were characterized by droughts and their side-effects of food shortages, mainly in Africa, India, Indonesia and Brazil. However, it was only in Africa whose famine occurred especially in the Sahel.

There are two common theories on the drought namely: the La Nina and El Nino factors. Basically, the two make up the extremes of a giant meteorological system called the Southern Oscillation that links the ocean and atmosphere in the Pacific.

El Nino, "the boy" or "Christ child", so named because South Americans often feels its warm ocean current near Christmastime. The Child is marked by an influx of warm water and

human suffering.

The La Nina is the newest theory of the drought. In the summer of 1988, there was a "monstrous" 7 F plunge in ocean surface temperatures off equatorial South America. It brought unusually cold temperatures to the Eastern Pacific. La Nina has been credited in causing drought in the summer of 1988 in the American Midwest, the deluges that flooded Bangladesh in September 1988 and the severe hurricane season in the Caribbean and the Gulf of Mexico.

Essentially, La Nina exaggerates the normal conditions of the Southern Oscillation. During La Nina, easterly trade winds are stronger, the waters of the Eastern Pacific off South America are colder and ocean temperatures in the western equatorial Pacific are warmer than



CHILDREN: Gravely affected.

winds from the western Pacific. It is known to bring heavy winter rains to Peruvian deserts and warm weather to the US West Coast.

Since the Forties, there have been nine significant El Ninos occurring every four to five years. The last one and the most devastating was the 1982-1983 El Nino. During that time, sea-surface temperatures rose as much as 14 F above normal with a great tongue of warm water stretching some 8,000 miles along the Equator. It left a swath of devastation from the Philippines, Australia, the US, South America and the African continent with more than a thousand dead, some \$9 billion worth of damage, and incalculable

normal. The result: coastal deserts in Peru and Chile become even drier than normal, and the South American subcontinent is inundated by heavier-than-usual rainfall and flooding.

Scientists suspect that the high-altitude easterly winds that accompany La Nina helped foster the 1988 severe hurricane season in the southern Atlantic. One unusual characteristic of the present ocean cooling estimated 10% to 15%, is an accompanying warm patch of water near Hawaii. Kevin Trenberth, chief of climate analysis at the National Center for Atmospheric Research in Boulder, Colorado opines that "this conjunction pushed part of a tropical convergence zone, where

Pacific storms are formed, northward, thus forcing storms borne by the jet stream hundreds of miles north of their usual path over the US Great Plains of Canada.

La Nina may for a time offset the greenhouse effect by aiding the absorption of carbon dioxide before it accumulates in the atmosphere. Scientists state that La Nina may slow the increase in atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> by about 40% by stimulating massive plant growth in areas of heavy rainfall.

#### DROUGHT AND GLOBAL WARMING

On a more bigger scale, a theory is that drought is a side-effect of global warming and ozone depletion. If since the Forties there have been a significant number of El Ninos, one can correlate this to the greenhouse effect which started with the industrial Revolution.

Greenhouse effect and its twin, ozone depletion, are caused by three factors namely global deforestation, increase in industrial emissions and motor vehicle emissions. They have three separate effects namely, climatic change, abnormally fast plant growth, and increased levels of ultraviolet radiation.

As to climatic change alone, they will make the climate warmer with predictions that temperature will increase between 1.5 and 4.5 C by the year 2030. In short, climate will become warmer. Natural ecosystems will be disrupted, with grasslands and deserts expanding in area. The plant mix in rangelands will change, with unknown consequences for grazing livestock. Floods, storms and forest fires will become more common. Warmer winters would enable more pests to survive winters in which they would previously have perished. Earth's watercycle will be affected, with rainfall increasing in many areas but with soils becoming drier as evaporation rates increase. This in turn will affect surface water run-off, and many dams, reservoirs and hydroelectric schemes will become useless. On this alone, one can see drought as a possible

side-effect.

#### DROUGHT SOLUTIONS

Globally, the call is for a reduction of the carbon dioxide in the atmosphere through stringent emission control, use of environment-friendly fuels and non-ozone depleting substances, and global reforestation among others. Abroad, a ten-year high-tech program known as Tropical Ocean and Global Atmosphere is being undertaken to monitor both atmosphere and the ocean in the Pacific and Indian Oceans basin to provide a quick-response to their effect on climatic disturbances.

A palliative solution which is being done locally is artificial rain-making. Not discounting its cost, there is also the question of effectiveness. For instance, where temperatures are alarmingly high, if the rain produced is only slight, the baked land and superheated air usually make the droplets evaporate rapidly as fast as they fell. In short, a drought feeds itself.

The next best think like what has been done in Clyde, Ohio in 1988 was to perform a rain dance. If after all the gyrations in a rain dance or everything else fail, the last recourse is simply for us to pray for rain and repent our sins against Earth.

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## Abad's Holy Week

**B**Y THIS time, Florencio Abad must be regretting with all his heart his decision to give up his former position as congressman from the province of Batanes in favor of the portfolio of agrarian reform. As an acknowledged member of the congressional club, he did not expect that his confirmation could cause him so much agony and humiliation on the part of the lady President. His ordeal is exacerbated by the fact that when he assumed the DAR office, everyone thought that it would be easy sailing at the Commission on Appointments. Yet even Isidro Carino who has been dogged by controversy over his commercializing of a former school where he used to be president was confirmed, while Abad's confirmation still hangs fire after all these weeks.

Perhaps in his desire to be counted in the vaunted centerpiece program of the Aquino administration, Abad did not reckon with the ways of politics and the remorseless greed of politicians in this country. The Lower House, especially, is an excellent university for learning the vicious aspects of local politics. Here are gathered the country's landed gentry who would perpetuate the *sacada* system so that they may continue their ostentatious lifestyles on the back-breaking labor of their slaves, here are the forest plunderers who would cut the last tree in Palawan, Samar, Aurora and elsewhere and make this country a desert to satisfy their greed, here are the gun-runners and smugglers and the fixers and the creators and protectors of monopolies, all of whom equate their position with political opportunism and personal aggrandizements.

If he learned anything during his stint at the Lower House, Abad would not have accepted with such alacrity the DAR portfolio. He should have foreseen the effect of the presidential battle in 1992 and the jockeyings and manipulations that have been going on right after the last election. In a congress dominated by the Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino (LDP), his being a Liberal Partyman stands out like the proverbial sore thumb. If any partyman should insinuate himself into the affection of the farmers which constitute a formidable voting block in the country, why should it not be of the LDP? Is this not supposed to be the ruling party for the President? Why hand the farmers' votes to the opposition in 1992? What are the LDP in power for?

It has become increasingly very clear for Abad that these are the only reasons for his non-confirmation -- greed of the landlord-congressmen and the politics of 1992. He has submitted his program for land reform, his activist days were more in protest of the dictatorship rather than the furtherance of a left-wing cause, and he is certainly pro-farmer. Did his detractors expect anything else? Anyone who is anti-farmer has no business sitting as an implementor of the government's land reform program.

It was reported in the papers that the powerful CA will meet in session today to take up once more the case of Abad and others who must pass muster. But Abad's confirmation is not anywhere brighter than before, despite Mrs. Aquino's efforts. Powerful party men have pledged to block his confirmation once more and most probably they will have their way. In a condescending gesture of charity, the Speaker of the House proposed that Abad be given a representative post in Congress to make up for his forfeited elective seat. After rejecting him, Mitra would patronize Abad, too.

If we may offer a suggestion, Abad should not even deem to consider the matter. He is a young man, he could set his sights instead on 1992 and even beyond and show his tormentors that they cannot put a good man down. If he cannot make it at today's session, he can take it in the spirit of Holy Week and the excruciating pain Christ suffered to wash the sin of mankind. He should resign and take his honor intact with him. Few are offered such a grand opportunity.

SKP  
090290



## Nationalism in Australia

TAMWORTH, AUSTRALIA -- The nationalism seethe is strong everywhere, even generally comfortable, and usually lackadaisical Australia - it wants to become a republic. Apparently there are those who do not want to wait for eleven years, a scheduled date, but want it now.

The argument in *The Australian* that Australia's geographical position binds it more to Asia (Southeast Asia to be exact), and the Pacific, than to the West, is old story, and had drawn the peoples of the region to the Australians in the past, a relationship which a "white policy" too often seriously meant, has eroded somewhat during the years. That is another story.

The present story, which has also been an old one, as everyone knows, is that Australia is governed by the British crown. It has a Prime Minister and other members of the government elected by the people, but all of them can be dismissed by the Queen of England at the recommendation of her representative in Australia, who has not at all been elected by the Australians. In that manner Gough Whitlam, one of Australia's best leaders (the best, according to some analysts), was kicked out of office.

### WOMAN SENSE



by PURA SANTILLAN-REYES

It is heartening to witness this "revolt" against power not authorized by the people. It is especially heartening to find it in Australia, many of whose people still pride themselves in claiming some British heritage or another. The Queen's birthday is celebrated with fanfare and a visit by any member of the royal family is a red-letter day. Even the crazy frolics of the princes and princesses are headlines, and often considered more cute fun than irresponsible acts. Or, at least, they are not judged in a bad light. Weekly magazines solely dedicated to their "exploits" grace waiting rooms of offices.

Yet Australia wants to be a republic, wants to have its own personality, its own character. It is to be congratulated for the wish.

### We Forum

MEMBER

**PII**

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## ONE'S WORTH



by MAX NOBLE

## Much ado about an old thing

IT JUST escapes me, this fuss over the supposed intervention of one American creep named Harold Maglio in the latest coup against President Aquino.

American interloping in our internal affairs is almost a century old already, and only Amboys will say Washington has stopped treating the Philippines as a colony since 1946.

I was still a kid when Magsaysay ran for President; but I do remember one Colonel Lansdale openly campaigning for the Guy. Between Garcia and Marcos, America thru the CIA did its act covertly, until the so-called February 1986 Revolution. American helicopters airlifted the Marcoses from Malacanang to Hawaii (Imelda says they were abducted, which is probably right). In the 1987 coup attempt, two Yanqui colonels were photographed in Camp Aguinaldo while in the act of meddling.

Now comes the "dope" that one Maglio from the US Defense Intelligence Agency promised to give \$20-million worth of arms and ammo to RAM-SFP last December, and just about every top government official expresses shock!

Methinks it's much ado about an old hat.

\*\*\*\*\*

An informant says that the outfit publishing *Philippine Letter*, a newsletter edited by one Charles Smith (whom a friend suspects is also a CIA creep) is not registered either as a partnership or a corporation with our Securities & Exchange Commission. And neither is the outfit registered as a single proprietorship with the Bureau of Domestic Trade.

Surprisingly, however, said outfit has an office in Makati, from where "news items" about the Philippines are faxed or phoned to its Hongkong office, where Smith stays most of the time. From the Crown Colony, copies of *Letter* are airmailed to its subscribers, mostly Makati businessmen who can afford to subscribe to periodicals in dollars.

If you happen to see a copy, read carefully between the lines and judge for yourself if, as a friend and I now suspect, the publication is a Company mouthpiece.

\*\*\*\*\*

Suppose, just suppose, that the Ombudsman or any of his deputies is charged with violation of the anti-graft law, who will investigate him?

Just asking.

\*\*\*\*\*

There ought to be a strict law against advertisements which peddle outright lies,

## Father can't feed his family

AGRICULTURE SECRETARY Senen Bacani yesterday announced we have bought 114,000 metric tons of rice from Indonesia worth \$24.5 million. This is the first part of the 400,000 metric tons we will import this year from Thailand, Vietnam and other countries for a total cost of some \$100 million.

Add to that rice import our foreign purchases of \$180 million worth of milk this year. During the past three years under Cory, we have been shamefully importing 99.3% of our milk needs.

Then add again to those imports the \$30 million worth of live cattle we will buy from Australia. Remember we buy every month 3,000 heads of cattle for our beef needs. Now total our rice, milk and beef imports. That would come up to a hefty \$210 million. How much is that in pesos?

Now add to that again our importation of corn, garlic, fish, and salt, basic foods we can easily produce and yet we buy, you begin to wonder. What the heck is our government doing? What have we done ourselves?

We are an agriculture country and yet cannot produce the food we need. What would you think of a father and mother who could not feed their family?

Now add to that litany of agriculture

imports our more hefty purchases of industrial products, we come down to our gargantuan trade deficit last year of \$2.6 billion, the biggest in our history. It is almost double our deficit last year.

Where are we getting all those money to import our basic needs? Where else but beg and borrow.

Our \$30 billion foreign loan is not getting any smaller. What new loans the government gets are used mostly to pay loan interests.

The next five years looks bleak. Unless we start an honest-to-goodness food production drive, public unrest may erupt again. A hungry stomach won't respect whether you are LDP, LP or KBL. And if you add the expected oil price hike, the growing inflation, bubbling unemployment, what a lulu we are in.

The Cory government has apparently wasted four years in agriculture bungling. Let us hope her last two years would result in meaningful efforts so we can feed our own people.

For Christ's sake, let us not forget a classic example of our stupidity of importing 99.3% of our milk needs to the extent that our per capita milk intake is three drops a day. Yes, three drops. No wonder there are millions of our children who have not tasted

## Living in a fool's paradise

MALACANANG ENGAGED in a massive propaganda operation to cover up its failures and distort the dismal facts to build an illusory image of a "successful" administration. Everything done around us is press-managed as achievement. This whole business of telling the public what is not true is true, of telling what is not there is there, is a game of delusion.

We are being misguided to live in a fool's paradise.

But who are really living in a fool's paradise? Not the people, not the hardened newspaper readers who are analytical of the news stories that come to their breakfast table. The readers see deep between the lines, see the news behind the news, and could stand their ground in the face of any disenchantment.

For instance, we are often reminded by Malacanang drum-beaters that we are now a sovereign independent nation. That we should deal with the superpowers like America and Japan as a superpower ourself.

as this one I read recently from a power company saying that geothermal plants don't kill people and don't destroy the ecology. "Truth in advertising" is, I think, the motto of one ad organization. Perhaps it can do something about blatant dishonesty in domestic advertising.

Just a footnote to all that's been written about the reopening of the dangerous EDSA-Boni intersection to vehicular traffic.

The reopening only shows that as MMA Chairman and Mandaluyong Mayor, Benjamin S. Abalos gets what he wants in his turf. Right or wrong.

How can we stand firmly, chin up, and deal with America and Japan as co-equals financially and militarily when our peso is shrinking; when our skies are guarded by Clark supersonic warjets, and our coastlines are kept safe by US warships or American-built anti-poachers, anti-smugglers radar-equipped speed cruisers donated to us by the US government under some joint defense agreement. We do not "miss the boat" therefore.

We are made to believe that we are sovereign and independent.

In this world of interdependence, we have become a village. We are sovereign and must deal with the outside world as sovereign people. We are sovereign only in name. Real sovereignty is being foisted to us by our administration, when in fact our government is being held by the balls (of leg-iron chain).

We are made to believe we are free and independent by the propaganda boys of the administration who themselves live and earn their keeps in a dream world of their creation. We are guided into a mirage, an optical illusion, an inverted world. Our ears are clogged with redundancies and superfluities that we are free, when in fact we are a colony of our own government.

\*\*\*\*\*

Apparently not satisfied with the effects of Malacanang propaganda mimeograph machine and the press release circulation corps, President Cory Aquino herself assumed the podium, piqued by an incessant cacophony of allegations that her government is shot through with graft and corruption, and "challenged" all and sundry to charge her with that crime (corruption) and

## LET THERE BE LIGHT



by JUAN G. FRIVALDO

fresh milk except from their mothers' breast. It is worst in the provinces. Many have not seen nor tasted fresh milk. We forget that milk is the most nutritious food on earth.

To think that we have three million carabaos, two million cattle, two million goats, vast tracts of pasture lands, surplus dairy technicians.

To add insult to our stupidity, the Congress has not passed in four years any bill to develop our dairy industry. Yes, the chairmen of our committee on agriculture of both Houses are from Tarlac, Senator Butz Aquino and Congressman Peping Cojuangco. Of course who can forget that Cory is also from Tarlac?

Now these three top leaders in our country cannot produce what we eat, then let us pray we can prevent food riots like what had happened in many countries.

## TOWN CRIER



by VIC BARRANCO

"to prove it."

Madam President hold your horses. Do not "challenge" the people. You are using improperly the term "challenge" which does not behoove properly well of your high office. Say instead: "I ask the people to help me clean this government of corruption." And the public might come forward, dispassionately, open their hearts and help you.

Graft and corruption have many faces, Mrs. Aquino obviously interprets corruption in terms of dollar and pesos. She limits the meaning of corruption to the narrow view of practical politics.

"I want to go on record as daring anybody to come forward and accuse me of any wrongdoing," said the very militant Mrs. Aquino.

Members of Congress may take your call, not as a challenge but an invitation to cooperate. Mrs. Aquino, a child of darkness in this distraught land, feels she is above reproach like Caesar's wife, let alone above corruption in her government.

Other serious but less considered forms of corruption include: change from a sound condition to an unsound one; like economic status; contamination or moral debasement and perversion of the mind and body; moral and intellectual decadence through textbooks and language studies that hem in the absorbing mind of youth.

## Use of Galido affidavit is witch-hunt

FORMER IBP President Leon M. Garcia who represents the Integrated Bar in the Judicial and Bar Council sent us a list of aspirants for various judiciary positions in Zambales and requested our reaction. Unfortunately the communication was sent too late and, therefore was received long after the President made her appointments for Zambales and Region III. I don't know if that was intentional or just plain ineptitude on the part of the people in the Judicial and Bar Council because it was annoying to receive a request for reactions and comments on the qualifications of applicants when it was already *pas*. One of the aspirants for the then vacant position in the IBARTC (Branch 69) was Fiscal Nacin.

The Supreme Court ruling that the Solicitor General's Office cannot represent public officials charged with offenses in relation to their offices, which Solicitor General Frank Chavez insists in doing, is a correct ruling. The decision should bouy up the spirits of Deputy Ombudsman Manuel Domingo who was earlier chastised by suspender Frank for insisting that the OSG cannot appear for public officials charged before the Ombudsman. In hindsight, I was the first to take the position, later adopted by Deputy Domingo. When I was Tanodbayan, I banned the Solgen's office from defending public officials charged before my office. Indeed I thought it queer that the government will protect, through legal support, those who are charged with wrongdoing against government itself. Now this issue has been laid to rest and should put the OSG in its proper place. Congratulations to Deputy Ombudman Maneng Domingo who was one of the closest to me during our IBP days.

Incidental intelligence: former NTC

Commissioner Linggoy Alcuaz has been silent these past weeks. Did anyone gag him? Not really. I've found out the reason: he has filed a case before the Regional Trial Court in Makati, seeking his reinstatement to the position. I met him at the Manila Penn sometime last week and he asked me if he has a good case. I told him his case is only as good as the courage and moral fiber of the judge who will hear his case considering that, in effect, he is also bringing an action against Cory.

\*\*\*\*\*  
It is a pity that an ailing general like General Alex Galido has become a pawn in the chessboard of intrigues within the Cory government and he may never be able to "fade away" like an old soldier as he deserves. This tragic development speaks ill of the administration which appears hell-bent in running against all perceived opposition figures, using the might and muscle of the military in the process. If you ask me, the Galido affidavit (assuming it was prepared voluntarily) as well as the affidavits of other witnesses - said to be "deep throats" of General De Villa -- are shot full of holes and would not stand in any court, assuming the independence of that court. I have read all those affidavits and I dare say there is no iota of prima facie evidence that will justify indictment of the respondents in court.

\*\*\*\*\*  
There is another tragi-comic aspect in these charges. I am convinced that the military probers and the Department of Justice investigators do not even know some of the persons charged. I almost fell from my chair when I found out that Cesar Lopez, brother of the Mayor of Sta. Cruz, Zambales and a Cory diehard, received a subpoena from State Prosecutor Trampe asking him to file his counter-affidavit not later than April 2 because of the Galido affidavit and the other

supposed witnesses. Boy Lopez showed me the papers from the DOJ and I am convinced 1,001 percent that he is not the Cesar Lopez mentioned there. And yet why was he subpoenaed? I surmise that the military and the DOJ probers simply scanned the telephone directory and sent subpoenas to every Cesar Lopez listed there. It may be funny but the harm has been done. Cesar told me that his wife almost fainted when the DOJ people went to the Lopez residence to serve the subpoena. Pure and simple fishing expedition and witch-hunt. I don't blame Cesar for murmuring "for all I have done to help Cory in 1986 and for all the loyalty of our family to the government, *ganito pa ang nangyayari sa akin*." Well said, indeed.

\*\*\*\*\*  
By the way who is the Cabinet secretary who told a group of mayors and some senators at a Club Filipino party last March 20, thus: "*Total basa na ako, maliligo na lang; kaya titirahin ko na lang silang lahat sa opposition*"? This is a serious matter and yet they keep talking about peace and reconciliation. How can we have peace if government abets injustice?

\*\*\*\*\*  
Remember that mayor in Zambales who peddled a P480,000 Public Works contract to several contractors and got money from several only to award the contract to another? I also told you that this mayor returned the money of a lady contractor. Well, I was told by this lady contractor that not all the money has been returned so far. I don't know if the relative of the governor who was also duped was already paid. *Siguro walang pera si mayor kasi nahinto ang jueteng*.

\*\*\*\*\*  
I am worried about the resurgence of NPA activities in northern Zambales. It started with the ambush of those policemen which also killed some civilian hunters in Bgy. Bamban, Masinloc, followed by the killing

## Gold & Mayor Lacson's Dreams

THE FILIPINO people should pray very hard for Mrs. Marcos for the moment she loses her freedom, economically, it will not be good for us. Other people will naturally take advantage of the Marcos gold. Right now, *nagbabalik-taran na ang mga iba* and this is just the beginning. I remember very well that when Governor Licaros was still alive, he told me: "*Alam mo, Julie, ang puso ni Mrs. Marcos para sa mga mahirap talaga - kaya lang, yang mga groups nila Bobby Ongpin at iba pa, tinuturuan siya ng katarantaduhan. Paano niya magagawa ang mga bagay-bagay na kailangan ang expertise kung walang nagtuturo sa kanya?*"

*Marami pa siyang sinabi* which I will reveal in due time, about various personages in the Marcos administration.

A document marked M 229 dated February 21, 1981 received by the Office of the Social Secretary, Malacanang on February 24, 1981 gives the following information. It is addressed to Mrs. Marcos:

"You will remember your letter to Mr.

Kazumi Shinzato dated February 4, 1981, copy hereto attached, which I and my group (five members) used as our authority to contact Japanese officials and top ranking businessmen concerned in connection with what we told you as Japanese financial aid to the Philippines. We left for Japan on February 7, stayed there for 13 days and arrived here on February 19. The mission was made top secret in Japan, so much so that my group was confined in our room at the Miyako Hotel."

"The Japanese financial aid consists of accumulated interest income of dollar fund left in trust by General MacArthur to the Imperial family. The trustees are two Americans and one Japanese by the name of Mr. Yutaka Aoki who discussed the matter with us several times in our hotel. We are devising a means of how to bring out the money to Hongkong under the authority of the Ministry of Finance of Japan and that our cooperation is needed. It shall be made to appear that the money will be loaned to a Japanese company doing big

business in the Philippines and they found that Kawasaki is qualified. The Trust money in the hands of the Imperial family has already been deposited with Sanwa Bank in Osaka and is ready for transfer to Hongkong. To do this, it shall be made to appear that it is a loan to Kawasaki for a period of 30 years. It will be Kawasaki that will release the money to finance the massive economic development projects of the Philippines of the First Lady."

"Before the Japanese makes any decisive step, they want to be sure that Mr. Shinzato and the Pilipino group have already discussed this matter with you. It is for this reason that when we left Japan, the Japanese group sent Mr. Shinzato to the Philippines to meet you personally and get assurance that you know the transaction and that it was under your authority that we went to Japan."

"Ma'am, would you allow me to bring to you the draft of the letter addressed to Mr. Zirro Iwamura, President of Kawasaki in Tokyo, for your signature."

"You must have been inconvenienced by the adverse and massive publicity against me during my absence. I wish to assure you that I am innocent."

### IN MY CORNER...



by RAUL M. GONZALEZ

of a Chinese businessman in Candelaria and a Bgy. councilman, also in Candelaria. Last Friday, March 23, my wife and I were at Bgy. Babangkal in Candelaria to attend a Day Care Center affair and to induct several youth groups. While there it was quite obvious that there were suspicious looking men hovering around. I noticed several with identical plaster tapes on their cheeks, so with some carrying "bayongs" and a few seated in dark corners of the waiting sheds never leaving to watch the programs. Then last week, PC intelligence told me that a squad-size NPA group was right along the national highway in front of the Asinan and was able to elude a pursuing PC team. This development could set back investments in the province.

\*\*\*\*\*  
The construction of a P1 million building to house seven new classrooms and stage of the Panan Elementary School in Botolan has started. It should be ready by the next school opening. Some political bigshot in Zambales promised to construct the school many, many moons back and never did. A few months back we broke ground to construct the school and now it is a reality. They keep promising the moon; we match our words with deeds. By the way, people should visit the new school building in Bgy. Balitoc, Sta Cruz which we turned over last Friday, March 23. Then they should compare the asphaltting of the road we had constructed and the portion constructed by Deloso's favorite builder named "Billy". *Ang gawa nila bako-bako na*.

### TEA W/ JULIE



by JULIE AMARGO

The letter is signed by the sender and marked on the top left side of M 229 as PERSONAL AND VERY CONFIDENTIAL and consists of two pages with page 2 marked as M 230.

This letter is part of a batch consisting of handwritten notes about the gold with various banks.

Note that Japan is one of the biggest buyers of gold together with Taiwan and Singapore. However, gold is never sold by the thousands of metric tons for it will affect the pricing mechanism. In fact, Hongkong statistics will prove this. So, that news about the 2,000 M. Tons in Germany is quite unbelievable. Maybe, some government functionaries may just want to travel to Germany at government expense.

Beware, therefore, of swindlers. (To be continued)

## Laughter at the Bar (and Bench)

### IS THERE REALLY SUCH A LAW?

In Alabama it's illegal to play dominoes on Sunday.

\*\*\*\*\*

Maine was one of the first states many years ago to make it unlawful to travel on Sunday.

\*\*\*\*\*

An Old Portsmouth, Ohio, ordinance ranks baseball players along with "Vagrants, Thieves, and other suspicious characters."

\*\*\*\*\*

In 1800, you could be imprisoned for being nervous.

\*\*\*\*\*

In Hawaii, it is against the law to put pennies in your ears.

\*\*\*\*\*

Pasadena, Cal. Law forbids anyone to keep a dog that barks.

\*\*\*\*\*

Mang Tomas was under indictment for a

## Let us also tax graft and corruption

TITA CORY is dead set in raising the taxes on "sin" products like cigarets and liquor.

And spend more just to have cancer?

\*\*\*\*\*

Instead of raising the taxes on "sin" products, why don't we just tax the other deadly "sins?"

Like graft and corruption, prostitution and adultery?

\*\*\*\*\*

Since the government is not serious in busting the drug lords, the gambling lords and the crime lords - impose levy on them.

If you can't ax these scums, tax them.

\*\*\*\*\*

The Presidentita says: "Stop politicking, solve poverty."

Look who's talking, folks.

\*\*\*\*\*

Politics is the art of good government. Until Marcos and Aquino came to power.

\*\*\*\*\*

Tita Cory: "We should give all our time and all our concentration on ways to improve the living conditions of our people."

Just improve the dying conditions Madame President.

\*\*\*\*\*

But in fairness to the President, she improved the living conditions of our people by leaps and bounds.

Like JoeCon and the other "cory-nies."

\*\*\*\*\*

If you want your dead to be buried with a decent burial, be ready to spend several thousands.

Funeral parlors are making a killing victimizing the dead.

\*\*\*\*\*

Enrile should head the LDP and not the Presidentita.

Because LDP means "Laban ng Dinudug na Pilipino."

\*\*\*\*\*

### LAW AND (DIS)ORDER



by ANTONIO P. CORONEL

minor traffic offense and was without counsel's representation. The judge appointed a lawyer to defend him. However, it was obvious to all that the young lawyer had never tried a case in court. As he eagerly walked forward to consult his first client, Mang Tomas turned to the judge and said, "Your Honor, is this the man that's going to defend me?"

"Yes."

"In that case," continued the defendant, "I'm going to plead guilty."

\*\*\*\*\*

Baldomero was brought into court

The teevee set is also called an idiot box. As a tribute to illiterate morons and gagos masquerading as teevee hosts.

\*\*\*\*\*

Vic Sotto is really consistent. After running away from his wife Dina Bonnevie, the runner is intending to run again - as QC mayor or congressman.

\*\*\*\*\*

One-half kilo of Purefoods hotdogs is now P42.45 from P39.50 a month ago.

The hotdogs are not only eliminated in the PBA but also in my grocery list.

\*\*\*\*\*

This column was "missing in action" for several issues.

We missed the political action in Manila because we answered the call of nature.

\*\*\*\*\*

We went to several southern Philippines provinces and directed the taping of a teevee docu on the beauty of nature.

After the taping, we communed with our long lost Mother called Nature.

\*\*\*\*\*

If you want to view the docu, please go to West Germany before December.

Because it will be shown on German television.

\*\*\*\*\*

We captured on tape some of our beautiful tourist and historical spots and some beautiful indigenous flowers.

Not the Ermita, Angeles and Olongapo variety.

\*\*\*\*\*

Summer time is a welcome treat to our poor countrymen in the provinces.

At least, they have a few weeks respite from "suffer time."

\*\*\*\*\*

Grocery stores in Cotabato City should label their products "antique."

charged with beating his wife. The judge delivered a long lecture and concluded with, "if your wife brings you here again, I'll send you to jail."

A few weeks later he was back in court.

"What did I tell you?" charged the magistrate.

"Just a minute, your Honor. It was like this. We were sitting on the back porch and mama said, 'you only behave because you are afraid of that no-good bum of a judge.' Your Honor, when she says that about you, I just pulled back and smacked her in the mouth."

\*\*\*\*\*

A marksman is one who shoots first, and whatever he hits, he calls the target.

\*\*\*\*\*

You promote creative thinking by reducing the number of subjects taught.

\*\*\*\*\*

Technology is a way of multiplying the need for the unessential.

### PUNNY LINES



by FUNDADOR SORIANO

Because most of their products are old stocks.

\*\*\*\*\*

The Gen. Santos City airport looks like a private airport.

Too small.

\*\*\*\*\*

In Cotabato City, we feasted on seafoods. In return, the restaurant feasted on our pocket.

\*\*\*\*\*

Cotabato City could become a sister city of Manila.

Eating seafoods in both cities will cost you a fortune.

\*\*\*\*\*

We dined in the most expensive restaurants in Mindanao and did not spend a single cent.

The docu coordinator coordinated in footing the bills.

\*\*\*\*\*

Mayroong nagtanong sa amin sa Mindanao kung bakit daw ang kanilang paboritong "We Forum" ay naging weekly.

Pasalamat tayo at ang "We Forum" ay lalaki. Kung ito ay naging babae, baka ang dating sa inyo ay "monthly."

\*\*\*\*\*

Of course, hindi namin ito isinagot sa nagtanong na isang babae.

Dahil siya ay bata pa at malayo pa sa menopausal stage.

\*\*\*\*\*

(Page 13, please)

### YOUTH VOICE



by DAVE TABANIAG

## Land reform-II

THE NATIONALIST economist Ding Lichauco once wrote: "This is a country where the young have no hope for tomorrow, where one is born poor, lives in ignorance and want, and dies poor."

As we all very well know, the insurgency is fueled by social inequity.

The Cablesang Tales being portrayed by Jose Rizal in "El Filibusterismo" still exists up to the present time - the ordinary victim of landlordism.

\*\*\*\*\*

In Congress, the Hortensia Starkes, Rodrigo Gutangs, and Narciso Monforts, far outnumber the Nikki Cosetengs and the Edcel Lagmans. The landlord-congressmen often take advantage of the lack of education of the farmers. They buy their votes for a few pesos and after they get into office, they are no longer seen by their constituents until it is election time once again.

When speaking of landlord-congressmen, one can surely agree to that fellow who said that the opposite of progress is congress.

\*\*\*\*\*

These same landlord-congressmen are sitting on the appointment papers of DAR's Abad, a former member of the progressive bloc in Congress and who has shown consistently a bias for the poor farmers.

MABUHAY KA, SEC. ABAD. "YOUTH VOICE" IS WITH YOU, THROUGH THICK OR THIN! WIN OR LOSE!

\*\*\*\*\*

"Youth Voice" is nationalist and progressive but not communistic and radical.

\*\*\*\*\*

The Mass Com Organization of Trinity College is in need of your donations for the street children of Manila. Thank you.

\*\*\*\*\*

Sen. Tanada says the President has toughened on the US bases. Sana nga. We are with you on that, Ma'am.

\*\*\*\*\*

P.S.-The DECS, DND and Commission on Human Rights have signed an agreement with the NUSP last week guaranteeing full respect for students' rights to protest.

Students planning mass actions are allowed to call their fellow students three hours before actual protest, and only military men in uniform can disperse these students.

Meanwhile, some 150 students from the NUSP and LFS rallied at Camp Crame last Feb. 19 to ask President Aquino to immediately serve a notice for the MBA's termination, and not wait for September.

They also protested Cheney's visit.

# Mabituwing pulitika sa '92

NI ANTONIO ALANO

**MAGNINGNING ANG pulitika ng Pilipinas sa 1992 dahil sa inaasahang paglahok ng mga bituin sa pelikula bilang mga kandidato at mga punong tagapangampanya.**

Ngayon pa lamang, isang nang hayag na usapan na si Senador Joseph Estrada ay naghahanda na para sa kandidaturang pampanguluhan sa 1992. Sinasabi ng mga mapag-obsesya sa pulitika na ang kanyang mga makabayang talumpati at pahayag hinggil sa isyu ng baseng militar, gayundin ang mga pagbisita niya sa iba't ibang lalawigan ay nakatuon na rin sa pagpapakitang siya ay isang pangunahing manok sa pagkapresidente.

Sa katatapos na sarbeyng Vox Populi Research, lumitaw na 48 porsiyento ang pagtanggap kay Estrada, kumpara sa 58 porsiyento ni Presidente Aquino at 36 na porsiyento naman ni Senate President Jovito Salonga.

Kaya mangangailangan pa rin ng malakas na suporta si Estrada hanggang sa matagal-tagal pang panahon ng kampanya. At wala nang ibang mas malakas na tiket, kung totoo ang mga ibin-nyag ng mga tagahimaton, kundi ang tambalang Estrada at Fernando Poe, Jr. bilang bise presidente.

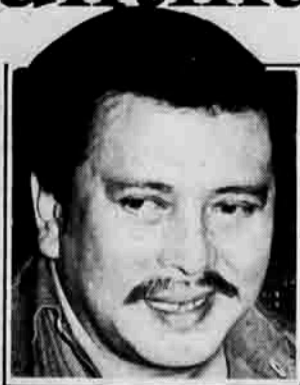
Malakas pa ang bulungan

na maaaring maging campaign manager nila si Kin. Nikki Coseteng, na sinasabing iginagayak din para naman sa senadoria. Siya ang nakatambal ni Estrada sa isang anti-baseng pelikula. Bukod sa mas maganda pa siya kaysa sa ibang artista, magaling din siyang magsalita hinggil sa mga isyung publiko.

Hindi rin inaalis na posibleng sumali sa karera ng mga ibig maging senador si Nora Aunor, na may malakas na magreto sa masa. At lalong malaki ang posibilidad na muling tatakbo si Ramon Revilla ng Cavite. Malakas din ang hatak niya sa masa at kung hindi raw nagkalituhan sa pangalan niyang tunay at bilang artista, malamang na lumusot siya noong nakaraang halalan.

Mayroon pang balita na ihahanda rin umano si Rita Gomez bilang katapat ni Miriam Defensor Santiagos sa Senado. Silang dalawa ang pinagpaparcha sa pagiging matalino at walang takot magpahayag ng mga kontrobersiyal na panananaw.

Ayon nga sa ilang movie



**ERAP, RONNIE: Mangunguna sa pulitika?**

reporters, kung nakaya ng daw ng mga artistang Pinoy artistang si Ronald Reagan na paunlarin ang Pilipinas. na isulong ang US, kaya rin (ANF)

# MASA

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11



**KABABAIHAN: Likas na malakas.**

## Lakas ng kababaihan

**BACOLOD CITY** -- Pinatutunayan ng limang babaeng meyor, at ng tatlong bise. alkalde, tatlong miyembro ng sangguniang panlalawigan at isang kongresista, na pawang mga babae rin, na ang kababaihan ng Negros Occidental ay hindi nagpapahuli sa kanilang mga kauri sa bansa at sa mundo man.

Malaki ang nagawa ni Bokal Cecile del Castillo sa pagpapatupad ng bagong konsepto sa pagbabangko ng mga maralita sa lalawigan ito, at wala naman daw siyang nagiging problema sa pagiging isang babae sa larangang ito.

Gayunman, pinansin niya na may ibang mga babae na hindi nabibigyan ng pagkakataong angkop sa kanilang posisyon dahil lamang sa kanilang kasarian. Pero sinabi niyang ang mga babae ay magagaling na mga tagapamahala bagamat kakaunti pa ang mga babaeng gobernador.

Samantala, ipinagmamalaki ni Mayor Soledad Montilla ng Sipalay, na siyang presidente ng Municipal Mayors' League ng Negros Occidental, ang kanyang pagiging babae at panahon na, aniya, para maglingkod sa kapwa ang mga

babae gaya ng ginagawa ng kalalakihan. Sinabi pa niyang nakahanda siyang gampanan ang kanyang tungkulin nang higit pa sa ginagawang paglilingkod ng ibang lalaking alkalde.

Subalit sinabi niyang hindi ito nangangahulugan na handag niya ang kapangyarihan. Bagkus, ibig lang daw niyang ipakita ang kahandaan niyang magsilbi.

Sinabi naman ni Mayor Providencia Silverio ng Himamaylan na hindi siya sang-ayon sa paniwalang segunda klaseng mamamayan lang ang mga babae kumpara sa mga lalaki. Ang mga babae at lalaki ay may pantay na kakayahan. Kung mayroon mang segunda klaseng mamamayan, iyon ay ang mga lalaking walang paninindigan, dagdag niya.

Ayon pa sa kanya ay higit na mahigpit sa pagpapatupad ng mga proyekto ang kababaihan. Kinatigan ito ni Mayor Julieta Salgado ng Kabankalan, na nagsabing higit na detalyadong trumabaho ang mga babaeng alkalde.

Kapag titingnan ang mga nagawa ng mga pinunong babae sa Negros, masasabi talagang "malayo na ang narating" ng kababaihan. (ANF)

## Iba't ibang mukha ng CIA

**MARAMI ANG** nagugulat at nagtatanong na mga kababayan natin kung paano raw kumilos ang Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) sa ating bansa. Saan daw ba ang opisina nito? Sino daw ba ang mga pinuno nito?

Hayag naman kung sino ang mga direktor nito. Maging ang opisina nito sa Pentagon. Ngunit ang malabo ay ang pagkilos ng mga tauhan o "operatives" nito na may kanyakanyang misyon. Para itong mga "kuto" na nakakalat sa buyong mundo at nagpapataba sa dugo ng kanilang mga biktima. Kadalasang binabantayan ng mga kutong ito ay ang "ulo" ng isang bansa. Kung ang ulo bang ito ay umaayon sa patakaran ng Amerika o hindi. Marumi, tulad ng "kuto" kung kumilos ang CIA. Maraming buhay silang inutas para lamang masunod ang kanilang mga plano.

Magugulat kayo na kahit janitor ay maaaring maging "connect" ng CIA. Walang pinipili ang CIA kahit "killers." Basta't mapapakinabangan nila sa isang partikular na proyekto gagamitin nila ito. Ngunit kung tapos ka nang pakinabangan, ibabasura ka na o ipaliligpit ka na nang permanente.

Napanood n'yo ba ang "The 3 Days of Condor"? Napanood ko ito at malinaw na inilarawan dito kung paano mag-operate ang CIA. Biktima rito ang researcher na si Robert Redford. Pinatay ng isang "hired killer" ang buong research staff na kanyang kinabibilangan. Mapalad lamang si Redford at nagmimiryenda siya nang maganap ang masaker. Nakaligtas siya. Nataranta. Nagpilit na kumontak sa mother company nila na siyang nagpapa-hunting sa kanya mismo. Nakahalata rin siya sa huli at isiniwalat niya ito sa isang kilalang dyaryo. Marumi at madugo trumabaho ang CIA. Miyembro nito ang lahat ng ibig maging "mercenary", mga indibidwal at mga iba-ibang organisasyon sa ating bansa. May ilan diyana na nagpapanggap na sila'y para sa kapakanan ng mga ganiitong sektor na naghihirap ngunit 'yun pala'y mga "fronts" ng CIA.

Ang isyu ngayon ng base militar ng US sa bansa ay malaking "trabaho" ng CIA. Kailangang patahimikin nila ang mga tao, nasa pamahalaan o wala, mga organisasyong tutol sa kanilang base militar. At ang pinakamabigat nilang trabaho ay ang "pag-

sang-ayon" ng Pangulo na manatili pa sila rito sa Pilipinas. Nagpakita na sila ng "sampil" 'ika nga sa mga nakaraang kudeta na sila'y hindi maiwasang tagapagligtas ng bayang Pilipinas sa sarili nilang moro-moro.

Subalit malawak na ang kamulatan hinggil sa masamang idinudulot ng base militar sa bansa. Kaya't marami ng sektor ang tumututol sa pananatili nito. Maging ang marami sa Senado at kongreso ay nagpahayag ng kanilang pagtutol. Natural, 'yung ibang pinuno ay "pustura" lamang para lapitan sila ng CIA at baka nga naman "alukin" sila ng pondong salapi sa kanilang ambisyon sa 1992.

Binigyang-diin ni Romulo Kintanar, ang diumano'y pinuno ng New People's Army na "target" nila ang mga Amerikano at Hapones na tumutulong sa kampanya laban sa matagal ng inilulunsad na pambansang demokratikong rebolusyon ng CPP-NPA. Inihayag ito ni Kintanar, ayon sa mga balita, noong ika-21 anibersaryo ng Bagong Hukbong Bayan (Marso 29). Nilinaw din niya na 'yaong mga rebeldeng sundalo na

KILATISIN NATIN



ni JOSE CRUZ PAPA

may damdamin ay layuning makabayan ang kanilang inaalok na sumali sa kanilang pakikibaka. Ang mga rebeldeng sundalong nagnanais lamang ng kapangyarihan at pagkaraan ay gagamitin ito para pahirapan ang mga Pilipino ay kanilang lalabanan hanggang sa huli.

Sa aminin nila't hindi, problemang malaki ng CIA ang CPP-NPA. Kahit sino'ng lider pa ang ilagay nila ay mukhang hindi nila ito masusugpo. Dahil ang kahirapan ang dahilan ng paglakas ng NPA. At ang nagdudulot ng kahirapan sa atin ay ang US-CIA katulong ng kanilang mga lokal na alipores sa bansa.

Salamat kay Dave Tabaniag sa pagturing sa akin na isang progresibong kolumnista. Natutuwa ako at may mga katulad ni Dave na napakabata pa'y nakatutulong na sa ating mambabasa na suriin ang nagaganap sa ating bayan.

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## Basic flaws in agrarian reform law bared by experts

AGRARIAN REFORM experts last week scored "basic flaws" in the Philippine agrarian reform program mandated by Republic Act 6657, otherwise known as the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Law (CARL).

One of the most scathing criticisms of the program was presented by Ric Tan Legarda of the Institute of Judicial Administration of the University of the Philippines in a paper presented to the international colloquium on Agrarian Reform held here.

Legarda conceded that agrarian reform was sound as a political strategy to address the problem of inequitable land ownership.

He pointed out, however, that the constitutional provision looks at the problem from the point of view of the tillers, but the implementing law passed by Congress approaches the same problem from the point of view of the landowners.

"The general rule of the main approach adopted by the farmers of the Constitution is 'land to the tillers,' or the land distribution approach. The 'profit sharing approach' was only adopted by way of an excep-

tion to the general rule of 'land distribution' stressed.

The CARP law contains provisions contrary to the letter and spirit of the 1987 Constitution, Legarda said. CARP has provisions favoring multinational corporations and corporate farms, which are not even mentioned in the Constitution as groups to be given preferential attention.

Dr. William C. Thiesenhusen of the University of Wisconsin, on the other hand, cited several barriers in the effective implementation of agrarian reform in the country.

Among these barriers, he said, were the following:

- The economics of growing rice and corn and paying land debts is unclear. If farmers do not diversify their crops, they cannot pay for their lands.

- The law permits profit-sharing and share-holding schemes in lieu of actual land division. Peasants could be cheated because landlords and corporations do their own accounting without outside auditing.

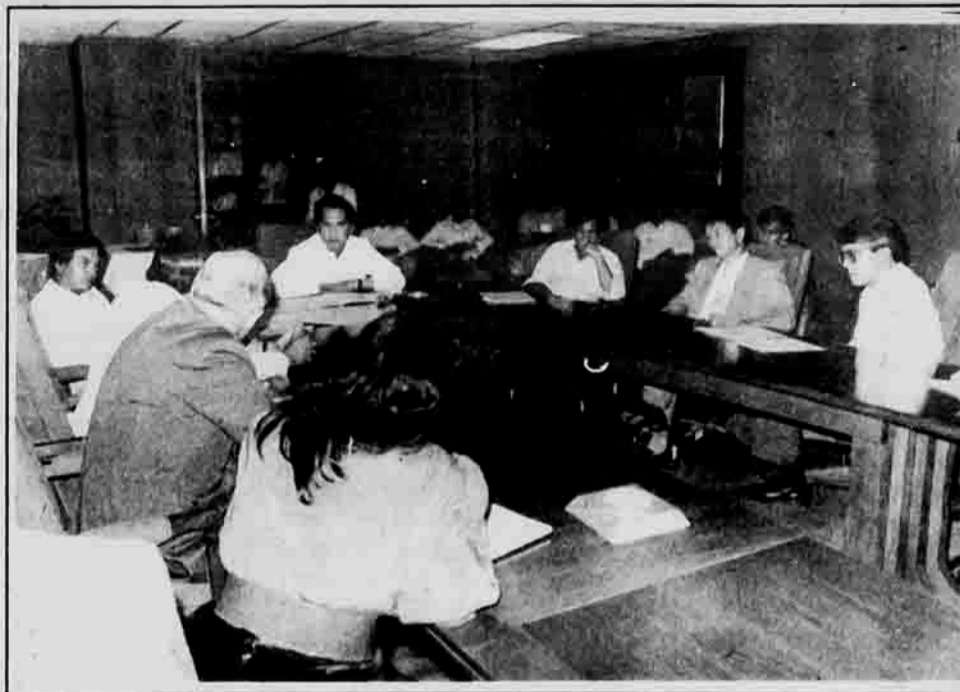
- It is not clear whether the important and growing class of landless or migratory

labor will benefit even if the reform is vigorously implemented.

- The formula for valuing land for government purchase for purposes of land reform seems arbitrary. It consists of a simple average of three figures between market value, assessed value and the landowners' asking price.

- The current budget for agrarian reform, given the debt situation of the country, may be inadequate for the task.

Thiesenhusen ended on a pessimistic note, saying that nothing significant may be accomplished on agrarian reform in a country like the Philippines which is "dominated so completely" by landlord and business interests. (PNF)



## FTI Privatization

AGRICULTURE SECRETARY Senen Bacani (center) recently met the officers of the Association of Food Terminal, Inc. Lessees (AFTIL) to discuss in depth the privatization plans for the FTI, in the course of his visit to the Food Terminal, Inc. Shown flanking Sec. Bacani are Agriculture Undersecretary Conrado C. Guzon (right) and FTI President and General Manager Jaime S. de la Rosa as AFTIL officers headed by its president Rafael Tinio and FTI officials look on.

### Fundador SORIANO (From page 10)

Mayroong nagtanong sa amin kung tatakbo pa raw na pangulo si Tita Cory.

Talaga bang wala ng kredibilidad ang biyudang nagkakacdad at ayaw na siyang paniwalaan?

\*\*\*\*\*

Pelikulang aksiyon pa rin ang paborito ng marami sa Mindanao.

Kaya pala may nagtanong sa amin kung bakit wala na raw pelikulang "bold."

\*\*\*\*\*

Mga bulag ang mga PBA fans sa Mindanao.

Dahil ang coverage sa Ultra ay pinakikinggan lang nila sa radyo.

\*\*\*\*\*

Hindi lahat ng mga lalaki sa Mindanao ay magbubukid. Marami ring mga sundalo at MNLF.

\*\*\*\*\*

Kahit may phobia kami sa pagsakay sa eroplano, muli kaming sasakay.

Dahil hanap sa ganda ang isa nilang stewardess.

\*\*\*\*\*

Ang kanyang pangalan ay Gina.

Kung nais n'yong malaman ang kanyang apelyido, bilhin ninyo ang buong PAL.

## Coup and bases in the Philippines

(From page 2)

clear for some time that Aquino was eminently controllable in the matter of the U.S. bases and their future in the Philippines, Washington supported her for the same reasons it opposed Noriega, and used the U.S. military to do the job in both cases.

Finally, early in January 1990 the Philippine House of Representatives passed legislation to change the Philippine system of government to a unicameral parliamentary one, as Honasan had recommended. Whereupon Senate President Jovito Salonga agreed to establish a joint House-Senate body to amend the

Constitution accordingly, and, in effect, abolish the Senate itself. Speaker Ramon Mitra of the House predicted that a new form of government could be put in place within three months, including its ratification by a plebiscite. Shortly after this, however, Senate President Salonga booked away from his agreement to move on the House proposal, saying that the times were currently too turbulent and discussion of this matter should be postponed.

The fact remains that a salient and democratic provision of the post-Marcos Constitution giving the Phil-

ippine Senate for the first time some say in the important question of the U.S. bases and their retention has come under increasingly heavy fire. The program of Honasan, now endorsed by the Philippine Lower House, carries forward and gives force to the opposition to this constitutional provision expressed by an influential member of the U.S. political establishment, the Republican Senator Robert Dole, three years ago when the clause was first discussed. Then Dole denounced it, saying it could endanger the bases by turning them into "an explosive domestic po-

litical issue" in the Philippines.

For the time being the move to eliminate the Senate with its constitutionally fixed relation to the bases question appears to have been put off. Several questions remain, however. Can a sufficient number of senators be found who will guarantee base retention? If so, will this satisfy the proponents of the bases, or will there be further efforts to push the amendment, including possibly another military demonstration, or coup attempt, to force the issue? Answer to these questions are unclear.

Judging from the experience of the Marcos years, however, one thing is more certain: Filipinos will keep trying to make effective

their aspirations for democracy and national sovereignty. Indicative of this was a statement issued December 3 by a quickly formed coalition of "cause oriented" groups and individuals that called themselves KILOS. While critical of Aquino for seeking U.S. intervention, the coalition called upon Filipinos to oppose the coup. The KILOS statement seemed to fit the needs of the moment, since the Honasan faction clearly represents the most aggressive leadership, the battering ram so to speak, of all those forces that wish to undo whatever remains of the democratic gains won by the February '86 revolution, including the right of the Philippine Senate to have a

say on the future of the U.S. bases.

Footnotes.

1. *New York Times*, December 3, 1989.
2. *Boston Globe*, December 3, 1989.
3. *Philippine Inquirer*, October 18, 1989.
4. Luis Beltran, *Philippine journalist*, on *National Public Radio*, December 2, 1989.
5. *New York Times* December 6, 1989.
6. *Philippine News Digest*, October 30, 1989.
7. *New York Times*, December 6, 1989.
8. Luis R. Mauricio, "The Americans' Current 'Nino Bonito.'" *Malaya*, April 9, 1989.
9. *The Filipino Express*, November 27-December 3, 1989.

## Paalam, kaibigang pawikan

*Puso ko'y nagdurugo ng ika'y lumisan  
O, aking kaibigang pawikan  
Paano na ngayon ang iyong uri  
Nalilipol na nang walang pasubali.*

*Noong mga nakaraang taon  
Ang uri mo'y abot pa ng milyon  
Nguni't ngayon tingnan mo  
Nabibilang na lang sa daliri ng tao.*

*Sino ang may kasalanan sa iyong sinapit  
Walang iba kundi ang lahi kong malupit  
Hindi inalintana ang iyong kahalagahan  
At ng pagkonserba sa mga buhay-ilang.*

*Nakakalungkot at nakakatakot isipin  
Ang maaring sapitin ng ating lahing sakim  
Kung ang uri mo at iba pang buhay-ilang  
Ay walang awang patayin at tuluyang  
lipulin.*

- Lidinila N. Concepcion

# Introduce nature to your children

By LIDINILA N. CONCEPCION

AS YOU look back on your own early years, you may have recalled the first time you noticed a bud opening into a flower, a bird building its nest, or two colonies of ants battling against one another. You may have remembered that such intimate glimpses of nature gave you a real thrill.

Now as a parent, you can give more pleasure to your children by introducing them to nature - sharing with them your observations of the ways of animals and the wonders of plants. Now is your chance to do it because of the long summer vacation.

If you still haven't started nature-observation and nature exploration with your children, now is the best time to start and arouse their interest in the wonderful creations of God. It won't be difficult for you since children are by nature curious and they have the true explorer's interest in their immediate surroundings as well as in far-away



places. They are eager to know why things are as they are.

You don't have to go on a safari. Delightful discoveries await in your own backyards, in city parks and suburban gardens, along

woodland paths where you may all hike and by the side of rivers, streams, lakes or to places where you may spend your holidays. In any of these places you can see monkeys playing tricks and performing acrobatic stunts or a parakeet hanging upside down. Bees, butterflies and birds have wonderful ways that you and your children can watch with fascination for hours.

The diversions nature can offer your children are much more exciting than any toy invented by man, yet it is close at hand and costs you almost nothing.

If you happen to live in the suburbs or in the provinces, you and your children may look out of the window and see a bird merrily twittering, flying and reaching for food. You may watch with your children, spiders spinning silken traps or see an exciting tug-of-war between a chick and an earthworm.

Right in the heart of Quezon City is the Ninoy Aquino Parks and Wildlife Nature Center which is under the management of the Protected Areas and Wildlife Bureau, Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

Situated along Quezon Avenue near the Elliptical Circle, it is accessible by all kinds of land transportation from any part of Metro Manila.

In this park are a variety of trees, birds and animals which can give your children their first lesson in nature appreciation.

The wide lagoon, ideal for boating and fishing can provide you and your children a good form of relaxation not to mention the wide picnic areas complete with tables and benches, perfect for small family gatherings.

The children's playground can give your children their first taste of outdoor activities.

In national parks, in zoos and museums, there are even more for your children to observe. No television, radio or motion picture producer can invent in his production the millions of years that nature has spent in preparing these thrilling spectacles for your children.

Children are more gifted with a particular sensitivity to the living world around us. They have this great gift of self-renewal through a deep absorption of what is happening around them. They love to lie stomach-deep in sweet-smelling grass and listen intently to the sounds of nature or gaze in awe at lowly insects or the deep blue sky above them.

Remember you are building for the future when you instill in your children a true appreciation of nature and outdoor activities.

## Structural reforms

IT IS one of those unending brilliant formative-based ideas being churned out to improve supposedly the otherwise lethargic, lumbering and burgeoning bureaucracy, by means of structural reforms, that is the ADB-backed proposal for the creation of a National Environmental Protection Authority (NEPA) under Senate Bill No. 354. The similar brilliant formative-based ideas might as well be pushed through like the proposals for an Environmental Protection Authority under S.B. 354, a Department of Fisheries, a Department of Energy and other similar ideas to give more 'clout' and heft to the present mammoth bureaucracy.

The creation of the NEPA will be consistent with the continuing and 'imaginative' effort to improve bureaucratic service through the well tried and easy way out solution of undertaking reforms through structural reorganization. In the environment sector, similar structural changes have been undertaken like the National Water and Air Pollution Control Commission in 1964 and the National Environmental Protection Council in 1977. But forget about the failures of such structural reorganizations, since new and better organic bodies can be created later on (the more, the merrier). Forget about the suggestions of environmental experts that designing organizations should be based on the nature of issues since they have not yet been fully tested and notwithstanding the fact that present and future conditions requires such.

The NEPA will provide once and for all, structurally that is, the much needed 'reforms' which existing maladroit government agencies have not provided. It will provide neo-and pseudo environmentalists and non-governmental organizations riding on the

crest of environmental chic, to test and experiment their own brand of environmentalism as well as re-channel their frustration and dissatisfaction with existing government agencies concerned with environment. It will open to supporters from academe the opportunity of proposing new research studies, feasibility studies, etc. to add to their lengthening biodata as well as enhance their consultancy marketability. It will probably provide some of the best, the mediocre, and the worse in existing government environmental agencies, new opportunities like position, power, etc. as well as in bureaucratic terrorism.

It will help lower the unemployment index by providing new employment opportunities with the creation of a central and probably regional offices to manage the far-reaching concern of environmental protection. But more important, it will provide a better grassroot network which the regional offices of existing government agencies are perceived as not able to do so. Ergo, better service delivery to the community.

Bureaucratic action words like coordination and liaison will gain more importance for the functions of NEPA will be too-embracing (environment, remember?). Inter agency meetings will improve and increase in number to better solve efficiently the various environmental crisis. But what will make the NEPA more effective is the fact that it is endorsed by an important international funding body, the Asian Development Bank (ADB). The officers of the NEPA therefore would find it easier to get more grants and loans as well from other funding agencies. But to ensure its 'effectiveness', its officers should therefore come from the cadre of malcontents and power psycho-

## PRETZEL LOGIC

by Amando C. Dayrit

paths in both private and public sectors, or from the structural reformists and advocates, or from the neo-and pseudo-environmentalists who more or less fit the parameters of both legislative and executive bodies and of course the interests of those various interest groups.

Too, it should have a mammoth budget to undertake its environmental offense and defense and of course to finance the new positions, its officers, buildings, vehicles, furnitures and other things which are essential to an organization. Forget about the national budget deficit since it is expected to contribute to the national coffers.

Given all these, it will be able to successfully compartmentalize into separate issues that of environment and development which red-blooded environmentalists perceived as intertwined issues. It will then be able to fully flex its muscles in environmental protection and give a big bite to the countless rules and regulations lying around which other bureaucratic weaklings have not been able to do. Its muscles and fangs are perceived to grow consistently against the predators and destroyers as the problems say in forestry or pollution become more acute.

Forget about political will and commitment; forget about the new ideas on environmental institutions; organizational structures are enough to address environmental problems.

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# **PAGCOR: The Philippine Amusement & Gaming Corporation What it is all about.**

## **An Economic Ally**

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

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

## **A Socio-Civic Partner**

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

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

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

## **A Tourist Attraction**

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

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

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



**Philippine Amusement & Gaming Corporation**  
PAGCOR HOUSE 1330 ROXAS BOULEVARD, MANILA



## Marital rape law faces rough sailing

A BILL introduced by Senator Teofisto Guingona which would protect wives from all types of physical violence including rape by their husbands faces rough sailing because of the unwillingness of most victims to support it.

Most wives who say their husbands habitually beat and rape them say they won't testify in favor of the bill, among other reasons because they fear their husband's retaliation.

Most husbands themselves regard the bill as unnecessary, arguing that rape in marriage doesn't exist, it being the woman's obligation to accede to her husband's sexual demands.

Some also said that violence between married couples is a private matter.

Some lawyers are also pessimistic about the bill's chances. UP Law Center lawyer Prof. Esteban Bautista, during committee hearings on the bill, said marriage presupposed the surrender of some "basic rights" of spouses, including the right to consent to sexual intercourse.

Feminist lawyers are themselves hesitant in prosecuting rape cases because of the difficulties in getting the victims to testify.

Human rights lawyer Venus Lucero, who handles rape cases, said that many women withdraw rape complaints under cross-examination pressures.

Wife victims, on the other hand, tend to value the effects of court suits on their children the most, and prefer to keep silent rather than expose their children to the publicity such cases usually invite.

Some feminists believe that even with the passage of the Guingona bill, men would not be

deterred from violence within their own homes. The growing clamor for the recognition of equal rights is considered the primary provocateur of violence. (PNF)

# We Forum

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APRIL 4-10, 1990

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IN METRO MANILA

**CEBU CITY -- Three months into investigations of the failed December 1989 coup and after hearing more than 160 testimonies mostly from the military, the fact-finding commission headed by Commissioner Hilario Davide Jr. may just get the jigsaw puzzle solved ahead of its 14-month deadline.**

This, despite a clear pattern of reluctance by military witnesses to talk about their fellow soldiers.

"The military picture is 80 to 90 percent clear," said Commissioner Ricardo Romulo in an exclusive interview with PNF.

The Davide Commission was here March 28-30 to hear the testimonies of some 14 witnesses in connection with the Cebu mutiny coinciding with the military coup staged last December in Manila by rebellious officers and men against President Corazon Aquino. Sessions of the government fact-finding mission were held in the conference room of Recom 7, Camp Sergio Osmeña in this city.

According to Romulo, three trends were evident in the military.

"We noticed that very often the military is satisfied when they have reported something to their superiors.

Then they stop there because their training is to follow the chain of command," Romulo said. "They don't follow up because they presume their superior will do what has to be done."

The other trend, according to Romulo, is that officers "will deliberately do nothing, even if they realize that something is already happening; they would just be fence-sitting."

This trend emerged clearly in Cebu's own experience during the coup with cashiered Lt. Col. Tiburcio Fusillero. Fusillero was under house arrest at Camp Sergio Osmeña since 1988 for his role in the August 1987 coup attempt but roamed freely inside and outside the province. Fusillero had periodically warned his comrades of the coup.

"The *barkada* (camaraderie) among officers (the third trend) is such that one who is involved in the coup can induce other officers to join and the coup plotter is even treated cavalierly," Romulo said. "*Nagbibigayan sila.*"

For his part, Commissioner Christian Monsod, also in an exclusive interview with PNF said that a lot of information was being withheld by the military.

"The military witnesses seem to know more than



**MILITARY JUSTICE: Changes needed.**

what they are actually saying," Monsod said. "If you noticed we were very specific and probing or else we wouldn't get the answers."

The commissioners are convinced that there is no collective or deliberate attempt to withhold information. "It doesn't necessarily mean they are guilty, they just don't want to be directly implicated," Monsod said.

Monsod was, however, confident that the truth will come out. "When an event occurs, it's really very hard to suppress the truth when there are so many involved in the same event," he said. "The truth will come out somehow."

Despite their apparent

suppression of information, Monsod said the soldiers like to talk about why the coup attempt happened. Among the commission's aims is to look into the root causes of the failed December coup.

"Some of the most interesting opinions come from those implicated. But sometimes they do sound too similar," he said. Monsod attributed the shared opinions not only to common experiences by the men-in-uniform but also to the effectiveness of indoctrination from the coup plotters.

According to him, the most common grievances the soldiers had were graft and corruption, non-delivery of government services and absentee local officials.

"We always ask for specific instances for the basis of such complaints not because we're witch hunting but because specific instances are more persuasive than general arguments," Monsod said. "And some names have been mentioned which might be useful to the government even if they have not committed any crime."

According to Monsod, one priority area that the government must address is

the system of military justice in the country.

"We're addressing the causes of the coup to prevent similar instances from occurring. One of the reforms would be not just reforms in the executive but even a fair but firm military justice," he said.

Meanwhile, Davide is confident the commission will finish its report in six months, instead of the 14 months allotted by Congress. "It's a self-imposed deadline," he said. The commission hears four to six testimonies daily.

The three commissioners however agree that hearing the civilian angle of the coup would be "rather difficult." The commission is scheduled to hear testimonies of civilians on the second week of April.

"The activities of the military were so open during the coup that's why the military picture is clearer," Davide said. Civilian involvement is rather difficult to prove and a sensitive area is finding out who financially supported the recent coup attempt. Among the commission's powers is to look into bank accounts of individuals strongly suspected of supporting the failed coup.

"We have to be careful not to put a cloud on anybody just because they were called by the commission," Monsod said. (PNF)

## CEG gives authority to Ernie Rodriguez, Jr.

THE *AD hoc* committee of the College Editors Guild Alumni Association in a special meeting held last March 17 at the Sulo Hotel in Quezon City unanimously gave former Mayor Ernesto R. Rodriguez, Jr., of Himamaylan, Negros Occidental, an unqualified vote of confidence with blanket authority to appoint subordinate offi-

cers to run the association from 1990-1995.

Upon motion of RTC Judge Clemente M. Soriano, of Branch 3, City of Manila, and seconded by former Commission on Elections Chairman Ramon H. Felipe, Jr., Rodriguez's resignation as CEGAA president was rejected unanimously and he was reelected to the position

for life.

Rodriguez had tendered his resignation for reasons of ill health. He has been president of the CEG Alumni Association since its foundation on February 11, 1951. He has also been president emeritus of the College Editors Guild of the Philippines since July 25, 1975.

The College Editors Guild Alumni Association is organizing a send-off merienda for Rodriguez on April 16 at the Sulo Hotel. Interested alumni may contact Judge Soriano for reservations. Rodriguez is slated to fly to the United States for medical treatment next month.