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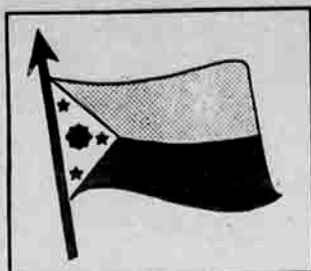


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VOL. 17 ♦ NO. 42

We Forum

To seek and live the truth and share a vision

FEBRUARY 14-20, 1994



Rally
for peace

₱3.00

IN METRO MANILA

OIL PRICE PROTESTS

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health
hazards
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ALTERNATIVES: President Fidel V. Ramos joins hands with the chairmen of the joint government-private sector which called for the suspension of the oil price increase until February 28. The joint committee, which was tasked to look for alternatives to the P1 per liter oil levy, is chaired by Executive Secretary Teofisto Guingona, (extreme left) representing the government and Senator Ernesto Herrera, (center) for the Kilusang Rollback. Also present during the three-and-a-half-hour meeting last Feb. 7 in Malacañang were Raul Concepcion of the Multi-Sectoral Task Force on Power Scheduling and Quezon City Mayor Ismael Mathay, Jr. (Malacañang Photo)

Hidden health hazards at the salons

WHAT'S A salon to you? A salon may look innocent and inviting especially to our much fragile egos but... according to one American researcher, there are hidden hazards in these houses of beauty especially for elderly women.

Michael Weintraub, a neurologist at New York Medical College, said that manipulation of the head and neck during shampooing can alter the flow of blood to the brain and cause a certain type of stroke. Weintraub said that among elderly people, conditions like hardening of the arteries and

arthritis make it imperative that the neck is not extended or manipulated beyond certain ranges. Arteries that supply blood to the brain (such as the two carotid arteries at the sides of the neck and the vertebral artery) are prone to injury when the neck is manipulated.

Weintraub conducted a survey of 25 women with a history of transient ischaemic attacks or "mini-strokes," to determine if neck positions are dangerous. The survey was prompted by reports of two elderly women who had suffered strokes after hanging their heads back into

washbasins.

Weintraub found out that out of the 25 women, 23 were sensitive to extreme movements of the neck. The hanging head position elicit symptoms in 18 of the participants and extreme sideways movements provoked symptoms in 5 of them.

Weintraub felt that workers as well as clients in salons must be warned of these dangers and that they must be careful with their task especially with elderly clients. (Health Alert)

Asian seas need help

By NESTOR CERVANTES

BANGKOK — ASEAN countries are "biting the hand that feeds them" through failure to reverse decisively the steady depletion of the three major ecosystems in its seas: coral reefs, seagrass beds and mangroves.

"Nursery and spawning areas of economically and ecologically important fishes are being lost," Philippine marine scientist Miguel D. Fortes told a meeting of ASEAN journalists, convened by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).

Attempts by both ASEAN governments and private groups to curb and repair the damage have been insufficient, so far. They have also been ineffective because many approaches were "socially unacceptable," he said in a paper circulated at the conference.

(ASEAN stands for As-

sociation of Southeast Asian Nations. It is made up of six countries: Brunei, Malaysia, Indonesia, Philippines, Thailand and Singapore.)

So far, ASEAN research efforts have narrowly focused on fish and marine products that quickly bring in cash. But the ecological damage is making severe inroads elsewhere: at the community and ecosystem levels.

"When the community goes, so goes the organism," warned the University of the Philippines scientist. As a first corrective step, he urged the FAO meeting to take a good hard look at the three ecosystems:

1. *Coral reef resources:* At the eastern edge of Indonesia (Irian Jaya) 60 percent of the reefs were still good. But in the more populated areas, only six percent are adjudged excellent.

Little quantitative data are

available for Malaysia. But in the Philippines, only a fragment (5 percent) remains in excellent condition.

Thailand has a third of its reefs in good condition. But the rest are in varying stages of decay. Reefs in Singapore are limited. Located along the narrow Johore strait, they remain in good condition.

2. *Mangrove forests:* Their status in Malaysia is fair. But in the Philippines, only 20 percent of the forests, estimated in 1920, are left. Salt pans and high-technology shrimp farmers have drastically reduced once luxuriant mangrove forest along Thailand's coast.

Indonesia still has 42,500 square kilometers of mangroves. But these are coming under severe pressure. Only small patches remain in Singapore.

3. *Seagrass resources:* Little scientific work has been done by Indonesia, Singapore and Malaysia on this important resource.

In the ASEAN region, population pressure and growing industrial activities "put into serious doubt the recovery and biological sustainability of the habitats," Dr. Fortes told the FAO conference.

In addition, natural disasters from typhoons to volcanic eruptions have adverse impacts on tropical coast environments.

Dr. Fortes told the FAO meeting several factors interlock and cause widespread alteration in ASEAN coastal habitats. These include: severe marine environmental degradation, heavy exploit-



PRIMA BALLERINA: President Ramos and First Lady Amelita M. Ramos congratulate prima ballerina Maniya Barredo after her farewell ballet performance in "Giselle" at the Cultural Center of the Philippines Friday night (Jan. 28). (Malacañang Photo)

Higher education needs updating

By ESTELA CARREON

PARIS — Universities may be in danger of becoming museum pieces.

Eminent Nicaraguan educator Tunnermann Bernheim believes universities are in crisis. These venerable educational institutions are suffocating with rigid, outdated structures and are poorly adapted to the

tation of coastal resources, lack of public support, inadequate management capabilities.

Inadequate institutional support and poor law enforcement reinforce the ecological problems, he noted. (DEPTHnews)

modern world, he says.

Bernheim thinks change is the biggest challenge facing universities and colleges.

He points out that the world is undergoing profound transformations as it prepares to enter a new millennium. The transformations, he says, have created a completely different and much more promising international scene. He cites, among other things, the emergence of more participatory societies.

Bernheim says higher education, like the rest of the world, will have to "accept" that change has become a characteristic of the times. It will have to adapt accord-

ingly.

Pointing out that most universities were created during the first centuries of the current millennium as a result of a change in the thinking of humankind and social relations, he says institutions will have to review thoughtfully and, subsequently revise their objectives, missions, tasks and organizations, and methods of work. They will have to train people to respond to social change and to the rapid development of knowledge and skills.

This means that universities must be constantly pre-

(Page 4, please)

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late Nicolasa Duenas of Udalo, Abra de Ilog, Occidental Mindoro, under OCT No. P-502 was extrajudicially settled among his heirs with sale as per Doc. No. 89, Page No. 77, Book No. XVI, Series of 1993 executed before Notary Public Alfredo T. Tejada on January 27, 1993.

WE FORUM
Feb. 14, 21, & 28, 1994

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of JULIA C. RAMOS who died on September 18, 1993 in Quezon City, has been extrajudicially settled among her heirs in a document entitled "Extra-Judicial Settlement and Waiver" under Doc. No. 46; Page No. 10; Book No. I, Series of 1994 of Notary Public Atty. Rebene C. Carrera.

WE FORUM
Feb. 7, 14 & 21, 1994

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of MARCELINO M. CRUZ who died intestate on Nov. 12, 1965 in Angat Bulacan, consisting of a parcel of land located at Angat Bulacan with TCT No. 35252 (T-34186) has been the subject of extrajudicial settlement among his heirs in a document entitled "Addendum to an Extrajudicial Settlement of Estate" under Doc. No. 26; Page No. 5; Book No. V, Series of 1994 of Notary Public Atty. Pablo G. Salvador.

WE FORUM
Feb. 7, 14 & 21, 1994

OIL PRICE ROLLBACK

By ERIC S. GIRON

MORE GRAFFITI on the wall. More acerbic messages from militant groups despite the new moratorium on fare increase. Bayan calls the "rollback" of fare to January 27 rate an "administration tactic" and "a compromise to the people's demand."

The graffiti deploring the fuel price hike are still as fresh as the motives behind the Administration's decision to allow the oil companies to raise their rate. "No to oil price hike," "Resist IMF-WB dictation," "Philippines 2000 *salot*." These are merely a few of the messages painted in red on the white-washed center islands along Recto Avenue in front of the University of the East in Manila.

Members of the Bagong Alyansang Makabayan bearing placards and streamers denouncing the increase in oil prices and the deleterious effects on the people stage a "die-in" across Aurora Boulevard in Quezon City while the *Kilusang Mga Walang Hanapbuhay* dramatized how the price increases of fuel, electricity and transportation costs severely affected the poor on España Boulevard in Manila.

These repetitious mass activities, as in the past, prove that the activists are very much alive and their target is now the effete Ramos' government.

Congress is at loggerheads, this time over Speaker Jose de Venecia's statement committing the legislators to eight Malacañang-endorsed revenue measures as a substitute for the P1 per liter levy on crude oil imposed by President Fidel V. Ramos in Executive Order 115 that triggered increases in fuel prices. Senate President Edgardo Angara said De Venecia "must have been dreaming again." He added that the Senate would ap-

prove only the value-added measure.

Rep. Rolando Andaya in turn doused cold water on the Senate bill granting 1.5 million government employees an additional P3,000 increase in salaries per month. He said the House would only pass what was "implementable." However, Budget Secretary Salvador Enriquez said there was no money for the Senate-approved increase.

Sen. Ernesto Maceda disputed this, saying the 1994 budget has P9.1 billion to cover the pay hikes while P3 billion could be sourced elsewhere. He said this was "blatantly making a fool of us." Sen. Raul Roco suggested closing down bankrupt government entities first that drain state money while government corporations be required to work at collectibles.

The senators accused Malacañang and the House of using the clamor for the removal of the P1 oil levy to ram tax measures down the throats of legislators.

The Supreme Court en banc heard the lawyers' group challenge that 1) Energy Regulatory Board issuance of a provisional increase in oil prices while hearings were ongoing and without any petition or application from the oil companies; and 2) the depletion of the Oil Price Stabilization Fund by withdrawals of the P1 levy by the three oil companies which the ERB cited as reason for the 28 percent price increase.

The high court ordered the ERB and the finance depart-

ment "to comment on the petitions not later than the close of office hours on Feb. 8," and to submit all its records pertaining to the oil price issue. The petitioners bid for a restraining order will be noted on Thursday, Feb. 10.

In order to move, President Ramos has ordered all government agencies to reduce by 5 percent all maintenance and operating expenditures.

Critics of the oil price hike lambasted the government's "crazy-money schemes" like the oil levy.

Internal Revenue Commissioner Liwayway V. Chato said:

Banks are expected to raise a howl over the proposal to prohibit them from deducting all treasury bill-related costs from their returns as part of their "ordinary course of business." But since this would raise P4 billion, President Ramos said "the measure should be pushed anyway."

All the proposals as alternative to the P1 oil levy will take a period of time, said new Finance Secretary Roberto de Ocampo.

Despite the Senate approval of a P3,000 salary increase for government employees, the Confederation for Unity, Recognition and Advancement of Government Employees (Courage) said it would field hundreds of its members on Feb. 9 to join the general strike demanding a rollback in prices of fuel, electricity and transport rates scheduled by the Trade Union Congress of the Phil-



PROTEST MARCHES: Acerbic messages.

ippines.

Courage was demanding a P2,000 salary hike. The Senate approved on Feb. 1 P3,000, half of which would be given this year. However, Budget Sec. Salvador Enriquez said there is no money for the increase. The apprehensive employees said they needed "immediate relief," not the staggered increase.

The Freedom from Debt Coalition lined up for options to ease the fiscal problems. These are: cut in debt service, revision of the different targets set by the IMF, implementation of progres-

sive taxes and better tax collection and the removal of the "fat in the 1994 budget."

Representative Miguel Romero of Negros Oriental added the cancellation of the oil price increase set by the Energy Regulatory Board and instead pursue an amnesty program which he estimated "could raise the P12 billion budget needed to close the fiscal gap."

Romero said it is very clear that the oil price increase was to cover part of the widening budget deficit. New tax measures are being considered in exchange for

scrapping the price hike and the oil levy.

New higher tax raise would be a greater burden on the poor. This measure that brings in revenue "without taxing the poor" is a tax amnesty program. "Since it draws receipts only from delinquent taxpayer."

The Freedom From Debt Coalition asked the President to review the Senate finance committee proposal to cut debt service by P25 billion. This should allay the government's fear about losing
(Next page, please)

Rollback . . .

(From page 3)

P13 from the oil levy.

Increasing tax collection efficiently reducing graft and carrying on progressive taxes may not respond immediately to the problem at hand, but taxation problems are actually like root cause of the government's resorting to easy-money measures such as the oil levy, the FTC said.

If the IMF deficit targets are not relaxed, then at the very least, it should cut the non-essential items of the 1994 national budget such as the pork barrel of legislators. The most equitable items in the investment program should not be touched, the FTC said. Reducing this could imperil economic growth.



ANDAYA: No to Senate bill.

Higher education . . .

(From page 2)

pared to review their teaching structures and programs, since crisis becomes more acute when the need for change coincides with rigid academic organizations and educational traditions that ascribe more importance to form than to cognitive content," Bernheim says.

Federico Mayor, director-general of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) agrees, saying what the world needs are "universities adapted to the pace of life today, and to the different characteristics of each region and each country. Institutional and conceptual changes in universities are therefore an essential part of overall change and the transformation of society, all of which are needed urgently as we approach the threshold of the next millennium."

Bernheim warned that if the universities are unable to face up to the challenge, other institutions are likely to fill the vacuum. Such a situation could turn centers for higher learning into museum pieces.

But he acknowledged that some problems might make it difficult for universities to adjust readily to the new realities.

The first problem is how to deal with rising enrollments without sacrificing the quality of tertiary education. UNESCO reports that university enrollment throughout the world rose from 28.2 million in 1970 to 47.5 million in 1980. This further increased to 58.4 million in 1988 or more than double the figure less than 20 years before.

The increase was particularly significant in the Third World. "Between 1970 and 1988, the number of students

has multiplied eight-fold in sub-Saharan Africa, six-fold in Eastern Asia, the Pacific and the Arab states, by four-and-a-half in Latin America and the Caribbean, and doubled in Southern Asia," according to UNESCO.

The second problem is relevance of programs offered by universities. "The lack of connection between the output of higher education, in terms of graduates knowledge and skills, and social needs give rise to some of the harshest criticisms leveled against the higher

education system, whose financial requirements keep on rising and compete for funding with other levels of education," Bernheim says.

The educator warns that universities will not be able to face future challenges if they continue to cling to traditional approaches. Rigid archetypes have to be replaced by flexible academic structures and practices.

Post-secondary education systems should begin to take steps to encompass both universities and non-university higher institutions.

Mobile . . .

(From page 12)

country. The pilot program was developed with assistance from UNICEF as part of the Area-Based Child Survival and Development Program in Ifugao. Community participation proved to be important to the success of the program, which was met with enthusiasm and eagerness to help. The villagers constructed the classroom and provided its furnishings.

"It was quite easy getting the community people's active involvement in the program" because they understood the need to participate themselves, says Florita Faculo of the National Economic and Development

Interlinkages must be set up to give young people a full and varied range of educational opportunities. Early entry into the world of work and the continuation of studies up to the highest academic levels should be allowed.

Bernheim says it should be a natural part of the universities' mission to cater to the requirements of

Authority, which cooperated in the program. Parents gathered local construction materials and built classrooms, writing desks and chairs. A few parents even opened their houses for multi-grade classes. Some classes are held in chapels, some in the shade of trees.

The Ifugao experience in mobile teaching has encouraged education and development workers in the region to replicate this innovative scheme in other provinces. A total of 50 classes will be set up in the provinces of Abra (6), Benguet (14), Ifugao (6), Mt. Province (14), and Kalinga Apayao (10). These classes

lifelong and continuing education if they are to be considered centers for the updating of knowledge throughout life.

He says the idea of a "critical university" — a place where "the keenest awareness of the times (is allowed) to flourish" —

will be handled by 50 mobile teachers trained by the Cordillera Multi-Grade Resource Center.

Education Secretary Armand V. Fabella is hopeful that the program will partially make up for the lack of elementary schools in barangays. More than a third of the 43,000 barangays lack schools.

Local government officials support the program, knowing that the concept has been proved effective in the rugged terrain of Ifugao. One official said, "There is no doubt we need to support this program because our people in the remote areas have long been deprived of access to educational opportunities." (DEPTHnews)

should now be complemented by the concept of "anticipatory university" which looks firmly to the future, makes future-oriented reflection one of its central concerns, draws up possible scenarios, and anticipates, rather than being led, by events. (DEPTHnews)

Republic of the Philippines REGIONAL TRIAL COURT NATIONAL CAPITAL JUDICIAL REGION Makati, Metro Manila

OFFICE OF THE CLERK OF COURT
& EX-OFFICIO SHERIFF

MR. QUIRINO VILLARICA,
Mortgagee/s,

- versus -

AQUILINA ANONUEVO,
Mortgagor/s,

X - - - - - X

Foreclosure No. 94-020

EXTRA JUDICIAL FORECLOSURE OF REAL
ESTATE MORTGAGE UNDER ACT 3135, as
amended by ACT 4118.

NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE

PURSUANT to the terms of the Deed of Real Estate Mortgage under date of 29 November 1991, executed by AQUILINA C. ANONUEVO, mortgagor/s, in favor of MR. QUIRINO VILLARICA, mortgagee/s, to satisfy the mortgage debt in the amount of P255,896.40, PESOS, in Philippine currency, with interest, penalty, attorney's fees and other charges together with all lawful fees and expenses of foreclosure sale, the Ex-Officio Sheriff of the Regional Trial Court of Makati, Metro Manila, hereby announces that on March 4, 1994 at 10:00 o'clock in the morning or soon thereafter, in front of the Main Entrance of the Municipal Building of Muntinlupa, Metro Manila, he or any of his lawful sheriffs, will sell at public auction to the highest bidder and for cash, in Philippine currency the following described real property/ies, with all its improvements, to wit:

TRANSFER CERTIFICATE OF TITLE NO. (265373) 112586

"A parcel of land (Lot 57-A of the subdivision plan (LRC) Psd-107376, being a portion of Lot 57, Block 1, (LRC) Psd-19028), LRC Rec. No. 10766, situated in the Barrio of Sucat, Municipality of Muntinlupa, Province of Rizal, Island of Luzon. x x x Containing an area of THREE HUNDRED (300) SQUARE METERS, more or less."

Prospective buyers and/or bidders are hereby enjoined to investigate for themselves the title/s to the said real property/ies and the encumbrances thereon, if any there be.

Makati, Metro Manila, 24 January 1994.

(Sgd.) ENGRACIO M. ESCASINAS, JR.
Clerk of Court VII & Ex-Officio Sheriff

(Sgd.) VILLAMOR R. VILLEGAS
Sheriff Incharge

WE FORUM
Feb. 7, 14, & 21, 1994

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES REGIONAL TRIAL COURT NATIONAL CAPITAL JUDICIAL REGION BRANCH 86, QUEZON CITY

IN THE MATTER OF THE
ADOPTION OF THE MINOR,
JOANA VAYA D. MALINAO,

SP. PROC. NO. Q-93-18489

PACITA MALINAO HOUPIN
& JOEL EUGENE HOUPIN,
Petitioners.

X - - - - - X

ORDER

A verified petition was filed with this Court by Sps. Pacita Malinao Houpin and Joel Eugene Houpin, praying that after due notice, hearing and publication, JOANA VAYA A. MALINAO, be declared their child by adoption.

Notice is hereby given that this petition will be heard by this Court sitting at the Grd. Flr. of the New Hall of Justice on March 7, 1994 at 8:30 in the morning, at which place, date and time aforesaid, all interested persons are hereby cited to appear and show cause, if any, why this petition should not be granted.

Let a copy of this Order be published at the expense of the petitioners, once a week for three (3) consecutive weeks in the "WE FORUM", a newspaper of general circulation chosen in a raffle conducted by the Executive Judge of this Court.

Petitioners are directed to serve copies of this Order, together with the petition and annexes upon the Office of the Solicitor General and the Department of Social Welfare and Development. The latter is hereby directed to conduct a social case study on the petitioners, the minor sought to be adopted, and the latter's natural parents, and submit its report before the hearing stated above. Further, their representative is directed to be present on the date and time of hearing.

SO ORDERED.

Quezon City, January 11, 1994.

(Sgd.) ANTONIO P. SOLANO
Judge

WE FORUM
Feb. 7, 14, & 21, 1994

Destruction faces rain forests in Angat Watershed

National Power Corporation has sent out a global appeal for help in checking a forest malignancy that has affected 30,000 hectares of prime apitong trees inside the Angat watershed. Acclaimed as one of the best-managed watersheds in the world, Angat provides 90 percent of Metro Manila's potable water supply, generates precious megawatts of clean energy for the vast Luzon grid, and bathes thousands of hectares of parched Central Luzon ricelands with glorious irrigation water producing farm income worth billions of pesos annually.

This priceless bounty is now threatened by a mysterious insect pest. Scientists worry that in no more than two years of unchecked growth, the botanical epidemic could turn this flagship of Philippine power and water generation into a veritable wasteland.

ANGAT DAM, BULACAN — A rampaging bark beetle hardly visible to the naked eye is cutting a swath through the strategic Angat watershed, fountainhead of potable water, irrigation systems and critical hydroelectric energy for teeming millions on Luzon and Metro Manila. Unless effectively checked, the beetle could devastate 60,000 hectares of prime rainforest, whose deep roots and tropical canopy now pour precious life-giving water into Angat dam.

The Angat reservation, lying barely 60 miles northeast of Metro Manila, is the crown jewel of the National Power Corporation's fast-fading multipurpose installations. Close to it lies the historic town of Angat, site of the founding Philippine iron and steel industry, which, ironically, is on the brink of extinction.

Both the Angat Dam and the Angat iron industry, as a matter of fact, are menaced by two separate acts of government originating from an ominous policy: privatization. The dam installation is being prepared for privatization along with the parent National Power colossus. The vanishing iron and steel home industries of Angat, on the other hand, will soon be swamped by the government's sale of the National Steel Corporation, due to be executed within the next 90 days.

(A story about the incipient disappearance of the Angat iron-making industry was published last year in *We Forum*.)

The current menace to the Angat dam, seen from a distance, is masked by the fury of the watershed's unbroken

regeneration. It camouflages effectively most symptoms of the quiet cancer gnawing at its vitals.

"Angat watershed is in grave danger," said R.J. Villafuerte, chief newswriter of the National Power Corporation's public affairs in a briefing session held just before a team of scientists, NGOs and forestry buffs set off to inspect the crucial Angat watershed, reputed to be among the finest and the best managed in the world.

"The danger isn't from illegal logging but from a more destructive kind. It's from an apparently unknown species of bark beetle (family, scoliidae, genera, coleoptera). It seems to have no natural enemies to check its population explosion.

"Unless its buildup is checked, it may take less than two years for all the apitong trees to be wiped out."

The beetle infestation now covers 40 percent of the apitong tree stand on Angat. Apitong, a prime endangered Philippine hardwood, is valued today at P5,000 per cubic meter. Apitong makes up 90 percent of the tree population of Angat's 50,000-hect-

By MARIO P. CHANCO
Editor, Earthman News Service

'METRO MANILA POTABLE WATER, CENTRAL LUZON IRRIGATION AND HYDRO-ELECTRIC POWER SUPPLY IN DANGER'



ANGAT DAM: Inside the creepers and vines, a deadly insect predator.

are forested cover.

Its disappearance, watershed experts agree, could turn the workplaces and the homes of tens of millions in Central Luzon and Metro Manila uninhabitable.

"People can live without electric power, they can survive without food for protracted periods — but they will not survive a week without water," recalled Dr. Roman Kintanar, PAGASA chief, in a recent interview with Earthman News Service.

The team of watershed personnel, environmentalists and science writers that visited Angat last weekend found little evidence initially of the presence of the deadly bark

beetle, which some experts hint may have been an "introduced" pest from another country.

A little over a decade ago, gall mites borne by cyclonic and monsoon winds from the Western Pacific ravaged tens of thousands of hectares of giant ipil-ipil trees throughout the central and northern Philippines areas. These pests disappeared gradually after three years and are now almost extinct.

In a double-outrigger banca, the visitors shaded eyes at the unbroken forests that lined their near and distant horizons.

"It is there," said Eliseo "Ka Ely" Calija, chief water-

shed officer of the Angat Watershed Area team.

Ka Ely is not an excitable man, his casual tone suggested, nevertheless, that the "it" present in the dank underbrush of Angat's sprawling forests could be, probably was, a nameless dreaded creature risen like some loathsome monster of the deep.

He pointed toward the bare-skinned, match-stick like poles that crane above the dark blue forests. As the banca moved slowly into the interior lake, the naked poles, dirty alabaster from the reflected midday sun, increased in number from solitary groupings of five or six to cluster several hundred meters wide.

"But the forests look normal," protested the solitary environmental journalist to Ed Devesa, action officer of the influential Scientists Action Committee (SAC). SAC has been sending observers from its specialized study groups to La Mesa since November, 1993, when Napocor Watershed boss "Datu" Ed Anguluhan began daily monitoring of the Angat apitong scourge.

Recalling the briefing given at the watershed offices earlier, the journalist found it hard to associate the unimpaired facade of the lush greenery exploding all over the landscape, with the restrained anxiety stamped on the faces of Ka Ely Calija's 16-man environmental base force.

Forests, the newsman thought, are after all like people. They get burned, sick, die, procreate. Why should Angat be any different?

There was no answer evident to that, so the visitors looked at the treelines surging out from the unprecedentedly high water levels of the dam.

The trees, said NPC's Glo to her teammate Manny Regondola, carry the patina of eons past, when forest cover invested all but a few sparsely settled coastal settlements of the Philippine archipelago.

Angat watershed's grizzled 25-year forestry veteran, Ka Santi, broke in to say when he paddles home from visit-

ing the sick tree plots, after twilight, he senses a labored respiration and inspiration from his beloved forests.

"Para bagang may ibong sugatan na humuhuni," he says casually. "It's like the sound made by a wounded bird abandoned by its mate."

On moonlit nights, said Santi's fellow boatman, the dead apitongs acquire a phosphorescent hue reminiscent of the candles extinguished on cemetery gravestones the day after All Saint's Day. The dead trees flicker and look like recently exhumed human skeletons. Occasional bizarre music floats from the transistor radios owned by the 279 Dumagat families who live as their ancestors did eons ago.

"Hindi ko makilala ang tugtugin," the boatman said. "Para bagang estasyon ng radio nagmumula sa ibang kalikasan."

Snatches of the chilly briefing session given at the NPC offices in Quezon City came back to haunt the banca passengers.

"The infestation spreads rapidly, occurring in poaches distributed throughout the watershed. It has already affected 40 percent of the apitong trees, a majority of which are already dead."

What is a dead tree? the journalist visitor asked.

"Well," said Ka Manny, "a dead tree may stand there for a while looking healthy but it will no longer absorb the nutrients sent up by its root system."

The journalist thought that over and offered, "Like some politicians I know." The boatman smiled, as though to argue, "But politicians can absorb nutrients even when dead and buried." But he said nothing.

Ka Glo and Ka Manny recalled that when Napocor President Sonny Viray first got news of the infestation, he gave Watershed boss Datu Ed Anguluhan a blank check to recommend all the solutions needed to check the ongoing calamity.

Energy Secretary Delfin Lazaro, known for his cardiac attachment to watersheds (Next page, please)

Destruction faces . . .

(From page 5)

and hydroelectric power, was monitoring strategies carefully, it was explained. More than just desiring to keep baseload capacities intact, Lazaro believes hydro should be here to stay.

Only last year, Lazaro gave stinging evidence of his concern for the deteriorating hydroelectric situation nationwide. At a board meeting of the National Power Corporation, the normally cool-headed architect of the Philippine power recovery program ex-

ploded on being told that a dredging contractor who had fallen behind his work on a northern Luzon dam wanted to pull out his equipment.

"Tell them," Lazaro said in a tone that left no doubt about his anger. "not to try that stunt. I am not going to let that dredge leave until the assigned job has been finished."

Experienced entomologists and foresters from U.P. Los Baños have visited Angat since last November and made

their diagnoses. The help of overseas experts has also been solicited: The Smithsonian Institute in Washington D.C., Australian forestry specialists in Brisbane, Trees for the Future's Dave Deppner, Adlai Amor from the Geneva-based World Wildlife Fund for Nature, Forestry expert Earthman Hugo Curran in Norwalk, Ohio.

A search was made (unsuccessfully) for Sonny Dominguez's veteran crops and forestry Englishman, who served with distinction during Dominguez's stint as secretary of agriculture under Cory Aquino. But Ka

Sonny was either out of the country or could not be contacted.

Anguluhan had told the Angat Dam visitors earlier he expected to get word from these and other sources momentarily. But he was far from ruling out the possibility that somewhere in the Philippines today, men and women could be asked to come forward and share their expertise with the endangered and beleaguered Angat watershed pioneers.

For instance: where were the men and women like Pat Duggan, the Irish-Igorot tree savant; that Cebu-based American, Bill Granert, or

Pete Ocampo, veteran of the Central Visayan World Bank tree-planting scheme? And where were those tree experts spawned by the venerable Dr. Florencio Tamesis, whose son, top-drawer eye expert Jess Tamesis, fights his father's battles on a deadlier battlefield?

"We are in a race against time," concluded the paper read to the Angat visiting team by NPC's R.J. Villafuerte. "The key to the eventual control of the insect may lie with its species identification on the international level. The determination of its country of origin, if indeed it was

introduced, may lead us to its natural enemies."

Including the man-made enemies — and of course Man.

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late LEONIDA JAVIER who died on September 29, 1988 at Silang, Cavite and FELIPE BENITEZ who died on October 12, 1993 at Silang, Cavite has been extrajudicially settled among their heirs in a document entitled "Pagbabahaging Labas Sa Hukuman" under Doc. No. 373, Page No. 76, Book No. 32, Series of 1994 of Notary Public Irineo A. Anarna of Silang, Cavite.

WE FORUM
Feb. 14, 21, & 28, 1994

Republic of the Philippines REGIONAL TRIAL COURT National Capital Judicial Region BRANCH 107-QUEZON CITY

RE: ANNULMENT OF MARRIAGE OF MARIA
NICOLAS TUAZON AND AVELINO G. TUAZON

Civil Case No. 91-15469

MARIA N. TUAZON,

Petitioner,

X ----- X

SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION

WHEREAS, on August 16, 1993, the Hon. DELILAH VIDALLON MAGTOLIS, Presiding Judge of Branch 107 of this Court issued an Order in the above-entitled case which reads as follows: "THE MOTION FOR LEAVE FOR EXTRA-TERRITORIAL SERVICE filed by petitioner through counsel on August 13, 1993 is hereby granted. Let summons be served upon the defendant by publication in accordance with Section 17, Rule 14 of the Rules of Court."

NOW THEREFORE, respondent Avelino G. Tuazon whose last known address is at No. 6 5th and 3rd Camarilla St., Murphy, Q.C. or at P. Buhangin, Sta. Maria, Bulacan, is hereby summoned and required to file with Branch 107 of the Regional Trial Court of Quezon City, National Capital Judicial Region, Bulwagan ng Katarungan, Quezon City his Answer to the petition filed against him in the instant case within sixty (60) days from date of last publication of this summons, upon failure on his part to do so as aforesaid, petitioner will take judgment against him and may demand from said Court the reliefs prayed for in the complaint.

Let this summons, together with the petition be published at the petitioner's expense in the We Forum, a newspaper selected by raffle pursuant to PD 1079 once a week for three (3) consecutive weeks. Likewise, let a copy dated July 27, 1993 be deposited in the Post Office, postage pre-paid and sent by registered mail addressed to the respondent at his last known address.

Quezon City, Metro Manila, August 17, 1993.

MARIA ZORAIDA ZABAT TUAZON
Branch Clerk of Court

By

(Sgd.) GRACIA B. MABINI
Officer in Charge

Republic of the Philippines REGIONAL TRIAL COURT National Capital Judicial Region BRANCH 107-QUEZON CITY

RE: ANNULMENT OF MARRIAGE OF MARIA
NICOLAS TUAZON AND AVELINO G. TUAZON

Civil Case No. 93-15469

MARIA N. TUAZON,

Petitioner,

X ----- X

PETITION

Petitioner, by counsel, to this Honorable Court respectfully alleges, that:

1. Petitioner is a Filipino, of legal age, and a resident of No. 6, 5th and 3rd Camarilla St., Murphy, Q.C., where she may be served with summons and other court processes;

2. Respondent likewise is a Filipino citizen, of legal age and is out of the country and believed to be in Italy. Enclosed please find a certification from the Immigration Department marked Annex A hereof and made an integral part of this petition;

2.1 Petitioner prays for leave to effect service of summons by publication in a newspaper of general circulation in such places and time as the court may direct pursuant to Rule 17 and 18 of the Revised Rules of Court.

3. Petitioner and respondent were married on June 15, 1985. Attached hereto as Annex B is a photocopy of their marriage certificate;

4. Petitioner and respondent during their marriage begot a daughter named Jennifer N. Tuazon who was born on October 11, 1976. Attached hereto as Annex C is a photocopy of the certificate

of live birth;

5. Respondent, at the time he contracted marriage with the petitioner was psychologically incapacitated to comply with the essential obligations of marriage such as love, respect and fidelity, and to render mutual help and support. Such incapacity became manifest during the marriage in the way the respondent behaved in relation to his wife, the petitioner and their daughter;

5.1 Respondent was extremely dependent financially on the fruits and industry of the petitioner, the latter was managing and handling the business to support the family. While the respondent was content in getting and receiving money from the petitioner. The respondent never exerted any effort to improve the business, the standard of living of the family nor did he share in the living expenses;

5.2 Respondent later on would be coming home irregularly, in the wee hours of the morning, drunk in the company of unknown persons after a drinking spree, only to change clothes or sleep;

5.3 Sometime in 1989, petitioner learned through friends and relatives that respondent have an illicit relationship with one female named Joy Dionzon of Sta. Cruz, Guiguinto, Bulacan. Joy Dionzon went to Italy to work. Later on of November 1989 respondent went to Italy;

Relatives sympathetic to the petitioner secured and gave the petitioner several letters of the mistress sent to the respondent. Hereto attached are photocopies of the letters marked as Annexes D, D-1, D-2, D-3, D-4 and D-5, now an integral part hereof;

5.4 Lastly, I have personally obtained knowledge and information to form a belief that respondent planned or masterminded an attempt against my life;

6. Petitioner and respondent have been separated in fact since late of 1989. In fact respondent maintains the illicit relationship up to the present;

7. The marriage of the petitioner and respondent is void by reason of respondents incapacity to comply with the essential obligations of marriage;

8. This action has been filed within the ten (10) year period provided in Exec. Order No. 227;

9. It is to the best interest of the minor child that she be put in custody of the petitioner;

P R A Y E R

WHEREFORE, premises considered, it is most respectfully prayed of this Honorable Court that an order be issued:

1. Declaring the marriage contracted by and between the Petitioner and Avelino G. Tuazon as null and void;

2. Award custody of the minor child Jennifer N. Tuazon, to her mother the petitioner;

3. Grant or issue to the petitioner the sole powers of administration of the conjugal partnership including the powers of disposition and encumbrance P100,000.

Other reliefs just and equitable under the premises.

Quezon City, April 5, 1993.

(Sgd.) JUDITO S. LADERA
Counsel for the Petitioner

VERIFICATION

Republic of the Philippines)
Quezon City) S.S.

I, MARIA N. TUAZON, of legal age, Filipino, after being duly sworn in accordance with law hereby depose and state that:

1. A am the petitioner in the above entitled case;

2. I caused the filing of the petition;

3. I have read the allegations thereof, and the same are true and correct as to my own knowledge.

(Sgd.) MARIA N. TUAZON
Petitioner

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN to before me this 5th day of April 1993 in Quezon City, affiant exhibiting her Residence Certificate No. 9417872 issued at Quezon City on January 5, 1993.

Notary Public

Doc. No. 133;
Page No. 27
Book No. 150
Series of 1993

WE FORUM
Jan. 31, Feb. 7 & 14, 1994

Three weeks

AS THE cliché goes, beggars cannot be choosers. Tuesday last week, oil prices were rolled back to their former levels while a multi-sectoral group studies other alternatives. It has until the end of this month, the three-week grace period given by the government, to come up with a solution other than raising fuel prices.

President Fidel Ramos, in an enlarged presscon Monday, denied the government buckled down in the face of a Welgang Bayan threat. There is no sense denying the obvious; it is a high presidential duty to defuse explosive situations that offer the possibility of getting out of control. And his motives are unassailable. With an economy just taking off, a nationwide strike at this time could send the wrong signals to local and foreign investors that he had been trying to woo. In fact, this had been the President's strongest rationale for his frequent trips abroad.

The state's decision to increase oil prices, which necessarily also triggers a hike in transport and power rates, does not rest on strong moral grounds. It has been repeatedly pointed out that P10 billion must be raised for the Oil Price Stabilization Fund, which is presently depleted. This fund is supposedly used mostly for infra-structure projects all over the country. But why punish the millions of Filipinos who are not even eating regularly?

Even P20 billion could easily be raised by the internal revenue bureau if its people do not steal the taxes that should routinely go to the public coffers, ditto with the customs bureau. A few more billions could be realized if the low house would forego its bronze caskets, *turon*, flowers, imaginary expenses for imaginary district offices and other ghost allowances. What is P10 billion if the government imposes taxes on the purchase of jewelry, cars, signature shoes and belts and clothings that only the filthy rich could afford?

The trouble with this administration is that it is so lacking in creativity. It also is completely devoid of talent in tapping the right people for the job. The President does not have to look very far for such people, they are usually within *spitting* distance. The low house, for instance. It can invent anything — and justify everything. Trust its leadership and its cohorts to solve any problem thrown its way.

Nazareno

FORMER PRESIDENT Corazon Aquino must be rueing the day she appointed Cesar Nazareno as the nation's top policeman. Not that we are blaming her; she was simply naive in assuming that her appointees would also have her integrity.

Nazareno must be a very rich man today, if charges against him are backed by evidence. Last month, the Ombudsman filed graft charges against him and 16 others for allegedly ghost purchases of uniforms and equipment worth P138 million. Last week two more charges were filed against him for more ghost purchases. The first involves a P20 million transaction for combat clothing and equipment for the police force of Western Visayas. Some 48 unnumbered disbursement vouchers were used for payment but no uniforms or equipment were actually delivered. This deal reportedly occurred in 1992.

The second, with the same modus operandi, was in August also of 1992. This one involves P10 million worth of uniform and equipment purchases for North Capcom personnel. The supplier was paid, but there was no delivery, as in the other cases.

For a time, we were aghast at reports that some media people covering Nazareno were asking P2 million for their Christmas kitty during his heyday. If these reports are true, the sum was not even enough; they were so successful in polishing the guy's image that many, including this space, was taken in.

Darn it!

Good taste

THE PRIME Minister of Malaysia, Mahathir Mohammad, has shown the locals an object lesson in good taste. Instead of wasting a perfectly uneventful night hobnobbing with politicians, he opted for an evening of cultural edification by seeing the Repertory Philippines version of "My Fair Lady." Mr. Mahathir, his lady and party must have been impressed.

The latest from the Malaysian visitors is that they would like to bring the play to their country and have talked to Mrs. Joy Virata about the proposition. The gesture is unadulterated praise for Repertory, the director and stars of the play, notably Lea Salonga. They should honor the offer, if only to prove that talented Filipinos could also scale the heights of professionalism in such endeavors.



Useless provisions

THESE ARE the constitutional provisions on the impeachment of the President and Supreme Court justices. The dismissal of the complaint by Eugene A. Tan, former president of the Integrated Bar of the Philippines and the Philippine Bar Association, once again showed us why these provisions might as well have not been embodied in our Constitutions, starting with the 1935 Charter.

Any lawyer worth his salt who has read Tan's lengthy but well-researched, well-documented and well-written complaint will say, like I do, that it deserves due course, not a dismissal on that overly abused ground: "for lack of merit" or some such expression.

But, on second thought, what else could one expect from the justice committee of the House of Representatives? Its officers and members are all dyed-in-the-wool politicians, with personal interests to protect.

The new broadsheet *Today* (February 3) had this to say:

"Thirty nine committee members are lawyers. (Chairman) Garcia is a member of the Judicial and Bar Council, which (Chief Justice) Narvasa has headed for two years now. His wife, Esperanza Fiel-Garcia, is a judge assigned in Cebu.

"Almost all of the 39 lawyer-members are active in law practice and are senior partners of big law firms with cases in the

ONE'S WORTH



by MAX NOBLE

Supreme Court and lower courts. Some are fraternity brothers of the accused. Other members have pending election protests."

Tan has every reason to fume. Again, here's *Today*:

"The committee action is a celebration of the triumph of politics over ethics, and of mediocrity over excellence," said complainant...

"Tan was reacting to a ruling by the House committee, chaired by Rep. Pablo Garcia (Lakas, Cebu), to throw out his complaint without even giving him the chance to present evidence."

About the only consolation for Tan is the fact that, barring unforeseen circumstances, he'll outlive all those justices he sought to be impeached. By then, or by the time they all have retired, the Supreme Court will have been peopled by justices who are each like Caesar's wife.

This is not to say that I consider the (Page 9, please)

We Forum



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JOSE G. BURGOS, JR.
PUBLISHER-EDITOR

AIDS spreading faster in Asia

BANGKOK — Unless something is done briskly, Asia will soon replace Africa as the region with the most new HIV infections each year, according to the World Health Organization (WHO).

Dr. George Petersen, communicable diseases adviser of WHO, said, although AIDS came into the region much later than in Africa and Europe, the disease is infecting Asians at a faster rate than in other continents.

'The rate of increase is greater in Asia than anywhere else in the world,' says Dr. John Dwyer, president of the AIDS Society for Asia and the Pacific. 'We have a genuine epidemic on our hands and the speed of (increase in AIDS cases) is not being matched (by) the speed of response.'

A new WHO report shows that 14 million adults and one million children are now infected with the AIDS virus and 20 million more will be infected by the end of the decade. Reported actual AIDS cases numbered 851,628 although estimates place the number at more than three million.

'At the moment, there are relatively few cases of AIDS in Asia, 3,000 for the entire region, but at least 1.5 million people have HIV, and that's a conservative estimate,' says Dr. Dwyer, a professor of immunology and head of medicine at Sydney's Prince of Wales Hospital.

HIV, or human immunodeficiency virus, is the micro-organism that causes the dreaded AIDS or Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome. It is transmitted through the blood.

Filipino health officials say there are about 394 AIDS cases in the country although reports received by WHO place the number at only 107 as of 1993.

In China, the number of reported AIDS cases is only 14 as of last year. But health experts have expressed concern that there are more undetected cases of HIV infection

We have a genuine epidemic on our hands and the speed of (increase in AIDS cases) is not being matched (by) the speed of response

because of China's tough legal and social attitudes towards people with high-risk behavior, such as homosexuals, intravenous drug users and prostitutes.

Some 621 cases of full-blown AIDS and about 2,500 cases of infection with HIV have been reported in Japan. Health officials, however, disclosed that there are 10 undiagnosed cases for every person known to be infected.

In Thailand, the government estimates that the number of people infected with HIV soared from 50,000 in early 1990 to 450,000, or nearly 10 times as many, by 1992. Confirmed AIDS cases, as reported to WHO, numbered 3,001.

Health officials in Sri Lanka estimate there are 800 to 1,000 people who are positive for the AIDS virus. Reported AIDS cases totaled 33 as of 1993.

As of the end of 1993, total AIDS cases in Malaysia were 90. HIV infections are now nearing 7,000.

The rapid spread of AIDS in Asia has been traced to prostitution and drug abuse in many parts of the region. 'Asia as a whole is bustling... and following that economic activity is the (growth) of the sex industry,' said Dr. Petersen.

He cited Cambodia as a potential problem area for AIDS in the region. 'Cambodia is today a bustling country. Everyone is in there: UN forces and civil servants. There's a lot of business and an important part of that economic boom, it seems, is a lot of prostitutes are being infected,' Dr. Petersen

said.

Prostitutes may get the HIV virus from the foreigners serving with the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) or from Cambodians who had come from refugee camps in Thailand.

'We are very worried about the situation here,' Dr. Petersen said. 'Cambodia might be the country with the biggest problem in our region.'

As for drug use, Dr. Petersen said, 'The whole drug-use situation in Asia, I think, plays a major factor as a mode to driving the whole AIDS epidemic.'

In Thailand, AIDS cases among users of injectable drugs were less than one percent in early 1988. This number soared to 43 percent in only six months, health officials said.

The concern over AIDS in the continent arises from the perception that Asia can ill-afford AIDS.

In a congress on AIDS sponsored by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), a study estimated that it costs about US\$11,000 to provide health care to a person with AIDS in India, US\$16,000 in Indonesia and US\$41,000 in Thailand.

With a cumulative total of one million cases expected in India alone by the year 2000, the cost of the epidemic — direct and indirect — is projected at US\$11 billion. The figure for Thailand is between US\$14 and US\$27 billion. Of the reported 1.5 million cases of AIDS in the region, most of them are in Thailand and India.

'This disease (AIDS) could be very difficult to deal with in a country where the GNP is only US\$350 a year,' said Dr. Salim Habayeb, World Bank senior public health physician, of the situation in India. (GNP, or gross national product, is the total value of all the goods and services in a country during a given period of time, usually a year.)

Dr. Michael Merson, director of WHO's Programme on AIDS, says developing countries are currently spending about US\$120 million a year to combat AIDS, including WHO's US\$100 million AIDS budget. The amount needs to be increased at least 20 times to US\$2.5 billion annually, he suggests.

Dr. Merson says that amount is only 0.03 percent of what the world spends on the military or on malaria control. 'What we do in the next two to three years is going to make a difference for the next two to three decades,' he points out.

AIDS has no known cure yet. 'Just like any other infection, it usually manifests itself first through skin disturbances,' says Dr. Jacques Paul Delescluse, one of the world's top 20 dermatologists and author of 'AIDS and The Dermatologist.' Because of this, the dermatologist is the first doctor that a HIV infected person sees.

Based on the number of AIDS patients who came to Dr. Delescluse, the disease can be manifested by zoster, a skin disturbance that affects half of a person's body; herpes, sores that stay much longer; warts that are widespread in the body; mycotic or fungal infections; and seborrheic dermatitis or severe dandruff on the face.

AIDS destroys the body's immune system making a person susceptible to so-called 'opportunistic infections.' (DEPTHnews Asia)

Saving forests will take user fees

MANILA — Two-thirds of the planet's original forests have been felled, and despite a decade of well-meaning global initiatives, the chainsaw is working faster than ever.

To halt deforestation will require no less than restructuring three features of the modern economy: property rights to forests, pricing of forest products, and political power over the fate of forests, according to a new study by the Worldwatch Institute in Washington, D.C.

Trees are worth a lot more standing than as lumber, author Alan Thein Durning concludes in *Saving the Forests: What Will It Take?* For instance, the prescription drug industry alone likely earns more than \$100 billion in annual sales of drugs with active ingredients derived from forests; no one

knows how many new medications may develop from forest products yet untested. Forests' flood prevention, watershed stabilization, and fisheries protection services are each worth billions more.

But because such services as flood control fail to show up in conventional accounting systems, these benefits, and trees themselves, remain undervalued. Durning urges governments to tax, rather than subsidize, forest destruction, so that more of the value of forests is reflected in the price of wood.

The report also recommends user fees. Charging visitors to U.S. national forests just \$3 a day would generate more revenue than selling timber from those lands does now. The proceeds would be a powerful incentive for the U.S. Forest Service to

preserve forests instead of promoting timber cutting and mining.

'Three obstacles have blocked forest protection,' says Durning. 'Nations disregard the rights of tropical forest dwellers. Market pricing does not reveal the full cost of wood. And forest policies are shaped by the few who profit from deforestation. Unless these things change, the forests will continue to fall.'

The number one priority for creating a sustainable forest economy is a property rights system that allies the interests of forest people with the health of forest ecosystems. Durning shows that Third World reforestation initiatives routinely fail when the forest land is under the exclusive control of the state rather than of local residents. But thousands of recent examples show that

'joint management' arrangements, in which residents benefit from forest use and protection, produce tangible results in reforestation and forest protection.

As of late 1993, some 10,000 villages in India were sharing management responsibilities, in an area of perhaps 1.5 million hectares. The concept has been gaining popularity elsewhere in Asia and Africa.

Goods and services from the woods provide more money and jobs than chopping down trees, Durning finds. The scenic and recreational benefits of forests earn billions of dollars, for both the world's growing nature tourism industry and for local residents.

The market for just one forest product from Southeast Asia — rattan, the palm stems (Page 9, please)

May solons serve beyond 9 years continuously?

THE PEACE process in Mindanao is at its critical stage with the recent bombings in Davao City and no specific groups is pinpointed to be responsible. This opens government investigators to all kinds of speculations and anyone can be blamed. It is not a healthy sign because mutual suspicions between the warring forces will make the peace dialogue very difficult.

In fairness to the MNLF, I seriously doubt that they are the authors of the bombings. Of course we cannot rule them out but to me it is rather remote that Misuari will sanction the bombings while he is trying to win sympathy even among the Christians. On the other hand, we should realize that there are rightist elements in Mindanao who may want to derail the peace process because they are fearful of MNLF dominance in Mindanao. Any conflict with roots in religion is hard to stamp out. Look at what is happening in the Middle East?

PCGG has raised no objection to the plea of former First Lady Imelda R. Marcos to go to China for medication. Yes, why should PCGG object. I think we have to accept the fact that, indeed Imelda has some serious ailments and needs rest and medication. I do not believe she has the slightest intention of avoiding trial after she was acquitted in two charges lately. Besides where will she go? Unless, perhaps she has finally decided to abandon all political dreams and has decided to marry her lawyer James Lim to live in oblivion in America. By all means, Sandiganbayan should let her go even just for humanitarian reasons.

Saving . . . (From page 8)

used to make wicker furniture — is worth \$3 billion annually.

Ecological pricing is the second priority for creating a sustainable forest economy. Virgin timber is priced far below full cost. For instance, the price of teak does not reflect the costs of flooding that rapacious teak logging has caused in Myanmar; nor does the price of old-growth fir from the U.S. Pacific Northwest include losses suffered by the fishing industry because logging destroys salmon habitat.

Few attempts have been made to calculate the full, ecological, prices of forest products, but they would undoubtedly be astronomical. One hectare of Malaysian forest is estimated to provide carbon storage services—which help prevent climate change—worth more than \$3,000 over the long term. A mature forest tree in India is worth \$50,000, estimates the Center for Science and Environment in New Delhi. And the full value of a hamburger produced on pasture cleared from rain forests may be about \$200.

Forests' greatest value is probably the diversity of life they contain. Forests harbor the wild relatives of dozens of crops. These related strains are crop breeders' first re-

IN MY CORNER...



by RAUL M. GONZALEZ

May a congressman serve a 3rd term which will go beyond 9 years, continuously? This is a gray area which, I think deserves a resolution from the courts. The people, too should be made aware of this legal issue since we are again entering into the threshold of the next congressional and local elections. For that matter this issue may also affect 3rd term candidates for local positions. Let us dissect the problem:

Under Section 7 of Article VI of the Constitution, "the members of the House of Representatives shall be elected for a term of 3 years" and in paragraph 2 of Section 7, "no members of the House of Representatives shall serve for more than 3 consecutive terms". Under Section 43 of RA 7160 (Local Government Code of 1991 "The term of office of local elective officials shall be 3 years starting June 30, 1992" and under paragraph (b) "no local elective official shall serve for more than 3 consecutive terms in the same position."

Based on the foregoing provisions as regard congressmen, if congressmen elected in 1987 will run in 1993 and win, it will mean they will hold office for 11 years and

local officials who were elected in 1988 will hold office for 10 years and 6 months — all way beyond the limits of 3 terms of 3 years each or 9 years only. And yet, senators who serve for not more than 2 consecutive terms of 6 years each, find us with some senators elected in 1993 as already disqualified from running in 1995 because that will be beyond 2 consecutive terms and yet they will only serve for less than 9 years.

Is there no discrepancy here? It results in a premium for congressmen and local officials whereas senators reelected to a 2nd term in 1993 but were in the last 12 will only serve less than 1-1/2 terms?

Or will this mean that congressmen and local officials reelected in 1993 may only stay in office until they complete 9 years and relinquish the office for the residue of the term? If we recall in 1961 when the late President Garcia was running for reelection there was a question in some quarters whether he can serve for more than 8 years because he already served less than a year when he succeeded the late RM after that fatal Mt. Manungul crash. That issue was never resolved because Garcia lost. I think it is time to test this matter in court and lay to rest any nagging doubts about the terms of congressmen and local officials.

Now the Meralco is demanding an increase in rates by P0.21. This is the consequence of the price increase demanded by oil companies. For the consumers, however, this will not sit well and the FVR government will suffer public obloquy. The small wage earner will be hard put to cope up with these increases. *Kaawaawa si Pinoy.*

Max NOBLE (From page 7)

eight respondents in Tan's case unlike Caesar's better half or are guilty. The point is, Tan's complaint didn't deserve that unceremonial dismissal, in fairness not only to Tan but also, and as importantly, to the respondents. The latter would have had the opportunity to clear their names, assuming they're innocent.

The reason advanced by the Philippine Constitution Association for its unexpected decision to cancel Miriam Defensor Santiago's guesting its "Constitution Day" program last February 8 was very shallow.

Tell that to the marines, Your Honors, not to newspaper readers. They know better.

Another suggestion: Please change your name. It's about time. You may call yourselves PhilExConsa.

Jose Panganiban, Camarines Norte.

The global energy crisis in early 1970 and the Philippine government decision to build a nuclear plant gave impetus to the search for uranium in this country.

This is the first PNRI exploration work for uranium in Palawan. (DEPTHnews)

Uranium . . .

(From page 12)

Atomic Energy Commission. In late 1954, initial discovery of uranium occurrence was made by the Philippine Iron Mines in Larap,

YOUTH VOICE



by DAVE TABANIAG

FDC coalition

THE UP-Solair based group, Freedom from Debt Coalition is, (for the information of Ador Salamat) actually a "coalition of coalitions."

It incorporates over 200 different cause-oriented groups comprising the broad political spectrum, such as *Bansang Nagkakaisa sa Diwa at Layunin (BANDILA)*, *Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (BAYAN)*, *Christian Student Movement of the Phils. (CSMP)*, *Demokratiko-Sosyalistang Kabataan (DSK)*, *League of Filipino Students (LFS)*, the *soc-dem Bukluran sa Ikauunlad ng Sosyalistang Isip at Gawa (BISIG)*, and *Movement for Popular Democracy (MPD)*.

Like Dave Tabaniag, Sen. Bert Romulo, and the "Progressive Bloc" of Edcel Lagman, the FDC seeks a debt cap limiting debt payments, the repeal of P.D. 1177, and a moratorium on debt servicing.

FDC is presently headed by UP Public Adm. Prof. Leonor "Liling" M. Briones. Men Sta. Ana is its secretary-general. The FDC publishes a monthly newsletter, "PAID" (People Against Immoral Debt).

Thanks to the FDC, and to Bro. Benjamin Baniaga of the Anglican Church, for providing me the data for this column, and for the warm reception they always give me.

Your comments regarding the foreign debt you can address to: FREEDOM FROM DEBT COALITION, School of Labor and Industrial Relations, UP, Diliman, QC.

Our support for the FDC and to the "Progressive Bloc" is on all issues. *Hindi palemya-lemya na parang badaf tulad ni Mr. Norman Sison.*

Ako, all-out progressive sa isyu ng foreign debt, education, labor issues, women and children's rights, death penalty, population control, and the rights of national minorities. 100%.

At long last, the IBP (the organization I belong to by force of law) is moving!

It has filed a case against oil-price increases.

At long last, it's moving! Thank heaven, it's moving!

To show its contempt for public outrage against the triple whammy, the Ramos administration is again set to hike gas prices anew, so reports a daily (February 6).

Ramos is courting trouble, and he knows it. If and when it comes, he'll have a very good "excuse" for doing a Marcos.

A storm is coming.

An Exposé on PAGCOR

How It Was Then.

How It Is Now.

Monthly Income

Before the February revolution, the average monthly income was ₱29 million. The highest monthly income declared was ₱55 million.

Under the new PAGCOR, the average monthly income went up to ₱169 million in 1987, ₱212.5 million in 1988, ₱290 million in 1989, ₱341 million in 1990, ₱428 million in 1991, ₱501 million in 1992 and ₱604 million in 1993.

Remittance to Government

In ten years, from 1976 to June 1986, the total remittance of the old PAGCOR to the government was ₱2.1 billion.

In more than seven years of operation, from July 1986 to December 31, 1993, the new PAGCOR has already remitted a total of ₱22.60 billion to the government.

Tax Privileges

PAGCOR, then, was exempted from all kinds of taxes, except the 5% franchise tax.

Since March 1987, all the tax exemption privileges have been withdrawn. Now, PAGCOR is paying the 5% franchise tax, corporate income tax, customs duties for imported equipment and employees' withholding taxes.

Audit Procedure

PAGCOR, then, was exempted from audit.

Today, all PAGCOR transactions are dutifully recorded, accounted for and audited by the Commission on Audit.

Secrecy vs. Transparency

PAGCOR operations then were veiled in secrecy.

Today, PAGCOR operations are carried out on an open-book policy in keeping with the President's directive of transparency in the government. Pursuant to this, PAGCOR publishes its financial statement quarterly, perhaps the only casino operator in the world who does so.

The difference in the way the casinos are run today has led to a sizeable increase in PAGCOR's income, out of which approximately 75% goes to the government through remittances to the Bureau of Internal Revenue, the National Treasury, the National Power Corporation, the Social Fund of the President, cities hosting the casinos, the Philippine Sports Commission, the National Commission for Culture and the Arts and the Board of Claims. Nothing is left with PAGCOR except what it needs for operations. With the substantial amount it remits to the government, PAGCOR has become the third biggest revenue-generating arm of the government. PAGCOR today is considerably different from what it was in the past.

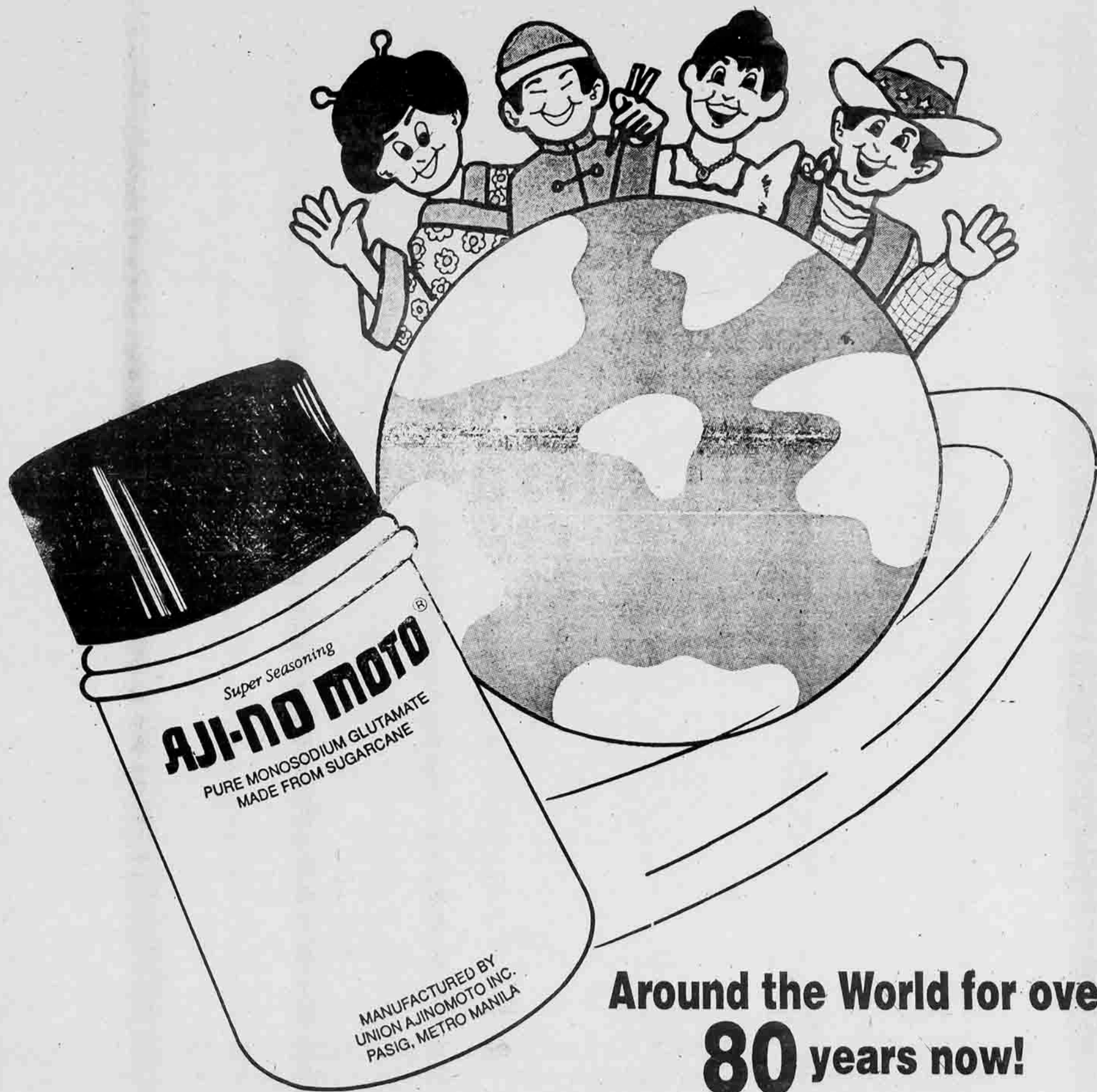


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FAREWELL, BETTY: President Ramos and First Lady Amelita M. Ramos view the remains of the late *Philippine Star* President Betty Go-Belmonte during their visit at the Belmonte's residence in Quezon City last Jan. 29. Behind them is Quezon City Rep. Feliciano Belmonte, husband of the deceased. (Malacañang Photo)

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IN METRO MANILA

Mobile teaching works in Cordillera villages

By ROMULO LUIB

IFUGAO, MT. PROVINCE — In a makeshift classroom constructed by villagers in Sitio here, 20 children of varying sizes and ages are sitting in nervous silence on makeshift chairs. Excitement is clear in their faces and those of their parents, who stand by the fence-like walls. The whole community is awaiting a momentous event: The teacher is coming.

All over the world people know the breathtaking view of the steep rice terraces here. But only a few people know that behind these tourist attractions are children whose education and lives have been restricted

because of the difficulties in getting to school.

About 40 percent of the far-flung barangays in the region have stories of students who had to drop out of elementary school because the journey to school requires youngsters to ford rivers and traverse mountains. Danger from civil conflict keeps some students home, while others don't make the long walk because they have to help their parents at home or on the farm. Some children have never taken the steep path to school at all.

This problem gave birth to mobile teaching. Under this strategy the teacher, rather than the students,

negotiates the mountains and comes to the schools. The teacher holds multi-grade class in one village for a number of days, then proceeds to another village. Thus, the children avoid the tedious walk to the nearest

school in the barangay, which can be two to three hours away.

Mobile teaching has been pilot-tested in Ifugao, one of the poorest, least served and least literate provinces in the (Page 4, please)

Cheaper off-season pineapple production

LOS BAÑOS, LAGUNA — Now, there's a cheaper way of producing off-season pineapples.

This was disclosed by Dr. Domingo Angeles, Chairman of the Horticulture Department at the University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB) during a recent interview over DZRM's agriculture

talk program, which is being coordinated and maintained by the Philippine Council for Agriculture, Forestry and Natural Resources Research and Development (PCARRD).

According to Angeles, a 25 ppm ethephon plus urea and 0.4% calcium carbonate solution is comparable to the 1000 ppm ethephon

being traditionally used. It was found that the Smooth Cayene responded positively with 82.5% - 100% flowering.

Although both have the same flowering response, the second solution is cheaper since only 25 ppm of ethephon will be utilized. (Lulu P. Dia, S & T Media Service)



Uranium search has good results

By BERNABE B. PAGUIO

QUEZON CITY — The search for uranium in the Philippines has yielded encouraging results.

Preliminary analytical results of the most recent explorations in Northern Palawan "outlined two areas... with high uranium values in the heavy mineral panned concentrate samples," says a group report of research scientists from the Philippine Nuclear Research Institute (PNRI).

The two areas are El Nido and Erawan, San Vicente town, Northern Palawan.

In the El Nido area, "the presence of acidic intrusive rocks and sedimentary formations such as sandstone and shale... may suggest a favorable geological environment for uranium mineralization," adds the report.

The El Nido exploration area covers about 120 square kilometers underlain by rocks. The Erawan exploration covers 80 square kilometers.

The two-year reconnaissance geochemical survey in the two areas has passed its final phase. Total samples collected consist of 212 stream sediments and 109 heavy mineral concentrates, among others.

Initial findings showed "comparatively higher values" in the heavy mineral samples than in those found in previous explorations done in other parts of the country.

The research group that reported the promising finds is composed of scientists Rolando Y. Reyes, Gabriel Santos, Jr., Wildred Magsombol and Angelito F. Ramos.

According to many authorities, the Philippines is not geologically "very favorable for discovery of uranium deposits." This is based primarily on lack of similarity between the geology of the major uranium-producing districts of the world and that of the Philippines.

However, it was pointed out in the 1985 technical committee meeting of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) that the western models may not necessarily apply to the Asia-Pacific region as exemplified by deposits found in China, Japan, Korea and Indonesia.

That meeting identified four different geological elements relating to uranium favorability in the Asia-Pacific region:

- Shield areas, containing acidic granitic gneisses with Proterozoic covering.
- Platform areas, covered with sediments of continental origin.
- Phanerozoic mobile belts, characterized by magnetism and volcanic activity.
- Island areas as reported by the IAEA.

It was also noted that "sandstone type deposits are most widespread in Asia and that further indications are found in Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, etc."

"Therefore, the chances of finding an economically attractive uranium deposit in the country (Philippines) are not as bleak as is generally assumed," concludes the PNRI group report.

The earliest reported exploration work on uranium in the Philippines was made in 1953 by the United States (Page 9, please)