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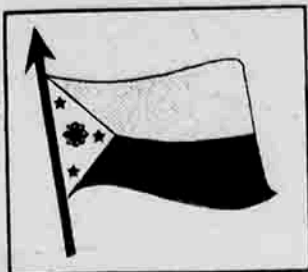


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We Forum

To seek and live the truth and share a vision

VOL. 16 ♦ NO. 35

DEC. 28-JAN. 3, 1993



Rally
for peace

₱3.00

IN METRO MANILA

Maligayang Bagong Taon sa lahat!

Ramos held hostage by 'vested interests'



FVR IN THAILAND: President Ramos, in white factory overcoat, inspects the C.P. Chicken Integrated Plant Friday (Dec. 18) at Saraburi, a north province of Bangkok. (Malacañang Photo)

RP in 1992--Page 2

Hopes for full
employment
look dim

Page 12

Silence surrounds
high AIDS cases
among young
women

Page 9

WHO paints grim
health picture

Page 12

National Scene Year-ender

1992: GOVERNMENT
DRIFTS, CRIME UP

By ERIC S. GIRON

NINETEEN NINETY-TWO was, of course, the big political year when a new President and Philippine officials from national down to municipal level were elected in the May 11 synchronized polls.

President Fidel V. Ramos' first six months was encapsulated by the irrepressible Miriam Defensor Santiago as *The Giant Meltdown* or *The Yawn*. If Mr.

Ramos had not hit the ground running as he promised, Miriam said it was because he was "dead on arrival." When he talks (and he loves to talk), people yawn, they go to sleep, she said, because Ramos lacks the dynamism, the charisma or that certain magic to make sparks fly.

Miriam observed Mr. Ramos is still politicking. He goes to the provinces and dispenses political patronage. "He is held hostage by the vested interests who supported his campaign," she asserted. People feel a sense of drift like what President Corason Aquino called her "transition government from the dictatorship to democracy."

After a disastrous 1991, optimists saw no other way for the Philippines to go but up. Wrong. The year opened with a negative 0.2% economic growth. At the rate things are going, Miriam said the nation will be lucky to attain one per cent growth in 1993.

The country's rice basket, Central Luzon, lost its agricultural land to Pinatubo's volcanic ashfall and mud. The bumper rice harvest forecast turned to rice importation. Rainfall was 40% less than normal since October.

El Niño rode again as in the last two years, decimating P424 million agricultural crops in 62,000 hectares of drought-stricken Mindanao. It moved up to Panay and Cagayan Valley in North Luzon.

In the crackling summer heat of March and April, Mindanao was ablaze with forest fires which swept Bukidnon, Davao del Norte and Davao Oriente for more than a month. Brush fires along Kennon road in Tub, Benguet ate up millions of pesos in trees.

Water was rationed in Metro Manila in early April when the water level of Angat and La Mesa dams in Bulacan sank below the critical level. Ipo dam maintained 100.96 meters capacity. Balara pumping station's operation cut up to nine hours gave water to certain areas only at night for five hours.

Mindanao's crippling 50% power cutbacks or 15-hour outages daily shut down seven major industries and laid off 53,000 workers in January. Power deficiency foiled P2.64 billion new industries that would have given jobs to 7,264 workers.

The Luzon grid is now operating at 48% of its normal capacity, stretching outages to five hours as aging power plants are breaking down. It could be bolstered by 1,200 megawatts to amply cover the 800-megawatt consumption. But coal-fired plants in Calaca, Masinloc and Pagbilao Grande and the Bataan combined cycle are not allowed to operate until they install anti-pollution devices.

LAW AND DISORDER

President Aquino was telling Philippine Military Academy cadets in Baguio on Feb. 16 her administration had broken the backbone of insurgency. She did not know that on the previous day, teenaged New People's Army recruits had massacred 41 soldiers of the 23rd Infantry Battalion in Surigao del Norte. They disarmed dead soldiers and used their rifles to kill other soldiers. They mutilated the wounded. Twenty-two soldiers escaped death by playing possum.

As 15 kidnap gangs run by policemen and soldiers abducted more than 22 ethnic Chinese whose families paid P50 million ransom from August 4 to October 1992, Manila Chinatown businessmen urged the government to allow them to carry guns in public and to organize vigilante groups to protect their beleaguered families. China and Taipei envoys were alarmed at the threats against the lives and properties of overseas Chinese and Filipino-Chinese.

LEE'S ADVICE

"Less democracy and more discipline" was the advice of Lee Kuan Yew, Singapore's former prime minister and strongman, to Manila businessmen who invited him to speak on what was wrong with the Philippine economy. Lee's precept was to establish order first and law, to concentrate on economics, not politics, and to build infrastructure.

Lee criticized the American-based Philippine Constitution that is "very difficult to work and



PRES. RAMOS: Still politicking.

I doubt if Korea, Taiwan or Singapore would have succeeded if they had a Constitution like yours." He spoke frankly of his own 31-year authoritarian rule which developed the island-city of Singapore into a rapidly progressing Asian nation. Long after Lee had left, his words still resounded in the press and among the public.

AMERICANS DEPART

The sun set on 94 years of United States presence in Philippine military bases as the Stars and Stripes was lowered and the Philippines' tricolors hoisted up the Subic flagpole on Nov. 24. The US Navy bade farewell to the 56,000-hectare Subic Naval Station's developed land and virgin forests, \$2 billion worth of shopping centers, educational, medical and recreational facilities and wharves and beaches. A Seventh Fleet vessel carried the last

batch of the American military in November, ending US occupation since 1898.

Olongapo City's work force among its 300,000 population who lost their jobs when the US Navy pulled out were somewhat cheered by the prospect of the Subic Metropolitan Authority, initially funded with P300 million, converting the naval station into a commercial free port and industrial complex.

When the first drydock left Subic in February for Guam, President Aquino asked US Ambassador Frank Wisner that one drydock be left for the base conversion. He informed her an AFDB-8 with a "replacement cost of \$130 million costs \$260,000 a year to maintain" and requires overhauling every five years. The Philippines cannot afford to operate and maintain one.

The second drydock with a

lifting capacity of 250,000 tons was towed by the *USS Brunswick* on March 28 for a 45-day voyage to Pearl Harbor. The last drydock left in April.

By force majeure of Mt. Pinatubo's ashfall, US airmen and dependents vacated Clark Air Base in one day in June 1991 and were eventually flown to Guam and the US mainland. The Philippine Senate had cut off further US stay in the country after the Mutual Bases Agreement of 1947 expired by rejecting a draft of the RP-US Treaty of Friendship, Cooperation and Security.

Aside from AIDS and venereal disease, the US servicemen left behind some 3,000 children by Filipino mothers in Olongapo. About 100 bar-girls asked the US Embassy to create an agency to help them and their children "take steps to assure our children of lives with human dignity." They believed their children had a right to American citizenship.

Bill McCabe, resident director of Pearl S. Buck Foundation, believes 50,000 Amerasians are scattered over the Philippines of all ages and descriptions. He urged the US government to "legislate for the Philippine Amerasians like they did for their counterparts in Korea and Thailand."

UNEMPLOYMENT

The year opened with 300,000 Filipino workers repatriated from Kuwait and Iraq because of the Gulf War and 400 Filipino domestics who were maltreated or raped by Kuwait employers. The 20,000 Filipinos in Libya were evacuated as the UN clamped air and arms embargo after the April 15 deadline as Muammar Ghaddafi refused to surrender six suspects in the bombing of a Pan-Am airliner in 1988 and a French airliner in 1989.

The returnees, 650,000 Central Luzon workers displaced by Pinatubo's activity, base workers thrown out of jobs after the Americans left, and those laid

off from factories shut down because of power deficiency total 2.3 million unemployed out of the 27 million work force by labor department estimate.

MIREN ECONOMY

President Aquino's government overshot its P238.7 billion budget by spending P298.9 billion or P60.1 billion more. After paying \$10.3 billion for the \$26.432 billion foreign debt left by Ferdinand Marcos in 1986, continued borrowing swelled it to \$29 billion. Domestic borrowing soared to P353 billion in 1992 or more than the 1993 budget. Of the P128.7 billion for debt service in 1993, 70% goes to domestic debts, Central Bank Gov. Jose Cuisia Jr. said.

The \$7.2 billion export earnings rose by 6.5% in 1991 but increased interest payments and expenses on national disasters bloated the P19.6 billion fiscal deficit to P37.2 billion. The inflation rate jumped to 20% because of election campaign spending.

BEHEST LOANS

The Aquino government kept under wraps since 1986 the P159 billion behest loans incurred mostly by President Marcos' cronies representing 419 accounts of 384 corporations of which P147 billion remains unpaid. Administrative Order No. 64 in 1988 authorized the Assets Privatization Trust to absorb bankrupt firms of defaulting borrowers whose loans would be paid by the taxpayers.

The APT sold back the firms at a loss to the bad debts who acquired capital for the purchase from the same lenders: Development Bank of the Philippines, Philippine National Bank, National Development Co. and Philippine Export Loan Guarantee Fund (Phil-Guarantee). Ten firms worth P1.8 billion were granted "friendly waivers" and were sold at a loss at P1.5 billion.

Jose de Venecia's Landoil Group of (eight) Companies paid only P19 million of its P4.5 billion (Next page, please)

lion loan. The Presidential Committee on Good Government said de Venecia's firms had to pay the debt despite his claim that the Sandiganbayan had acquitted him of the PCGG's ill-gotten wealth charge.

CB DEFICIT

Industrial companies passed on \$509 million foreign obligations and banks passed on \$439 million from 1986 to August 1992 to the Central Bank.

The CB is passing the buck of P359.7 billion debt to the public sector before a Central Monetary Authority proposed by Congress takes over its functions. The CMA will not assume government losses but a Central Bank Liabilities Corporation will be established for that purpose. CB losses in bailing out financial institutions from Marcos plunder constitute 40% of the entire public sector deficit.

POWER RATE HIKE

"This is plain robbery," the Bagong Alyansang Makabayan spokesman called the Energy Regulatory Board deception of the public in announcing an 18-centavo rate increase of the National Power (less) Corporation effective Dec. 26. Actually the Meralco had been collecting since October generation charge doubled to 5 centavos per kilowatt hour plus 3.6 centavos for pilfered electricity—a total of 8.6 centavos. No public hearing was held on the clandestine Meralco increase which the ERB kept secret for over two months until Dec. 18.

"They moved like thieves in the night," the BAM said. The 18-centavo hike for the NPC plus the Meralco adjustment totals 26.6 centavos on top of the 22.45-centavo increase in January and February. The BAM and *Kilusang Mayo Uno* will stage mass protest actions in January against the deception.

The 18-centavo rate hike was a condition of the World Bank for the release of a \$110 million loan to the NPC to pay for its \$2.9 billion foreign debt and transmission lines for six fast-track power plants to the Luzon grid. Power outages will continue until the plants are in place by September 1993.

The government needs \$2.2 billion (P57.8 billion) to finance the annual increase of power supply by 12% yearly in the next five years to put an end to the outages and enable the Philippines to industrialize, according to Energy Coordinating Council Chairman Delfin Lazaro, secretary of the newly-activated Department of Energy.

ABDUCTIONS SURGE

Fourteen criminal syndicates operate in Metro Manila out of 80 in seven regions in the Philippines, the Armed Forces intelligence network gathered. This belies President Ramos' claim that "crime is a temporary resurgence" and "not a countrywide phenomenon." Abductions totalled 50 in 1991. By October 1992, 60 had been abducted and cases were still mounting.

Among the ethnic Filipino-Chinese kidnapped were:

- School-bound Viola Chua, 12 (with mother Angelina and driver) in Caloocan and Michelle Lim, 16 (with driver and a body-guard) in Valenzuela within 15 minutes of each other. Viola's father Tony Chua paid P5 million ransom. Michelle's father, Celedonio Lim, turned over P1.5 million to the snatchers in Quezon City. Lawmen killed one snatcher, a navy man, and two others holding Michelle at BF Homes Almazan, Las Piñas. The girl was rescued unharmed.

- San Beda student Michael Li of San Juan, godson of Vice President Joseph Estrada, whose parents paid kidnapers P25 million ransom for his release.

- Kenneth Yu Go and Myron Uy Ramos, both 19, whose parents paid P1.5 million ransom, were not as lucky. The boys snatched at Santa Cruz, Manila, were taken to Cabuyao, Laguna. The kidnapers poured boiling water on the boys when still alive, then shot them both in the head. Kenneth's parents went abroad.

- Reynaldo Chan Sy Tan, vice president of Jollibee Food Corp., was abducted by Red Scorpion Gang members in Pasig. CIS operatives led by Superintendent Evna Ruiz rescued him from a house at Hilltop in Cupang, Antipolo.

- Chinese-Filipino realtor Wilhelmina Villanueva Andrada was driving along Lantana near

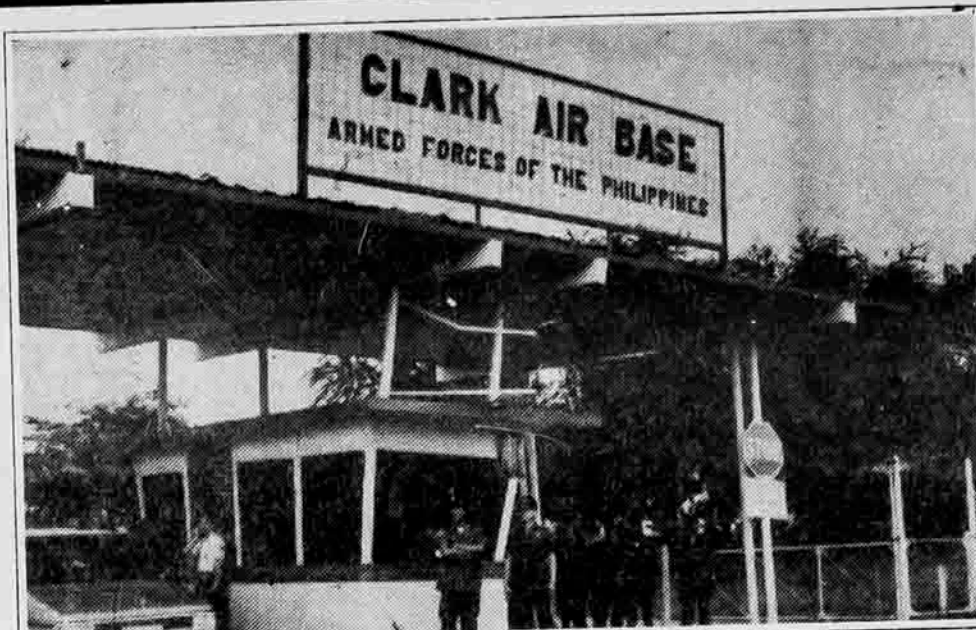
Barlete Drive, Quezon City at 11 a.m. Nov. 26 when her car was blocked by a gang who abducted her. Her secretary, Nancy Milo, who escaped, and two witnesses reported the snatching to the police. The police swooped down on No. 52 Scout Santiago in Kamuning, nabbed the six abductors and rescued Andrada. The police found the ransom money, P152,000 cash and P2.2 million in check. Andrada's 1992 Toyota Corolla car, two revolvers and an armalite rifle.

Under investigation at Camp Crame, the snatchers admitted kidnapping Mark Li, the Bongat children, and a certain Dico from whom they collected P3.8 million ransom.

- Allan Ong, 44, owner of Cherry Foodarama in Mandaluyong and Tan To, 80, were about to board their car from home at Valle Verde II in Pasig at 1:45 a.m. Dec. 1 when armed men blindfolded them and drove them to a hideout. They forced Ong to give them P3 million but settled for P1 million which To took from the supermarket vault while Ong was held hostage.

ATAYDE GANG

The capture of Arturo Atayde, 26, residing at plush Corinthian Gardens, opened a can of worms linking agents of the immigration bureau, National Bureau of Investigation and Highway Patrol Group to crimes. Atayde and his 13-man gang were accused of



CLARK AIR BASE: Good-bye.

the murder of Petronio Sudaria on May 19, 1991 and Rodolfo Coronado on July 16, 1992 and for seizing a 1989 Nissan Sentra car of Philip Teng of Binondo.

Ata de said six PNP and four AFP generals were protecting the gang's illicit activities but retracted his statement the next day. He implicated three gang members to the 1991 kidnapping of Americans Greg Stillwell and John Keagan, who paid P7 million ransom in Antipolo and fled

to Bangkok. NBI Agent Jose Balmaceda, one of the alleged kidnapers, implicated four colleagues in the ransom-kidnapping of German businessman Alexander van Twest on South Superhighway, Alabang June 16. Three gang members were wounded in a shootout with lawman during the roundup in Valenzuela.

Three military men and a civilian nabbed in Metro Manila confessed they had raked in P13

million in eight abductions since 1989 and P33 million from bank and payroll robberies and car thefts. AWOL Quezon City policeman Alejo Olegario and Roem Esparto confessed they abducted a certain Miss Yap in November and received P5 million ransom from her.

They claimed giving P200,000 to Chief Inspector Timoteo Zarcas, under trial with Chief Inspector Joe Pring for (Page 6, please)

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

IN THE MATTER OF JOINT
PETITION FOR VOLUNTARY
DISSOLUTION OF THE CON-
JUGAL PARTNERSHIP OF
GAINS

SP. PROC. NO. Q-92-14024

SPS. FELIPE E. BUENCAMINO
and BLESILA T. SANCHES-
BUENCAMINO,

Petitioners.

x-----x

ORDER

A petition for dissolution of conjugal partnership of gains. Petitioners are husband and wife, having been married on January 16, 1965 at the Parish of the Most Holy Trinity, Sampaloc, Manila, and are presently residing at No. 142 Kapiligan Street, Araneta Subdivision, Quezon City. They begot four (4) children: Shiela Marie Theresa, John Philip, James Anthony and Mark Vincent, all surnamed Buencamino. During their marriage, petitioners acquired real and personal properties. They agreed to voluntarily dissolve their conjugal partnership of gains and their property relations be based on complete separation of property.

The hearing of this petition is set for January 27, 1993 at 8:30 o'clock in the morning, before this Court sitting at the Ground Floor of the New Hall of Justice, City Hall Compound, Quezon City, at which date and time, interested persons, particularly creditors of the petitioners, if any, may appear and show cause why the petition should not be granted.

Let this Order be published once a week for three (3) consecutive weeks in the "WE FORUM," a newspaper of general circulation chosen in a raffle conducted on December 1, 1992. Petitioners are likewise directed to notify their creditors of this petition.

SO ORDERED.

Quezon City, December 14, 1992.

(Sgd.) ANTONIO P. SOLANO
Judge

WE FORUM

Dec. 28, 1992, Jan. 4 & 11, 1993

Republic of the Philippines NATIONAL CAPITAL JUDICIAL REGION REGIONAL TRIAL COURT OF VALENZUELA, METRO MANILA Branch 75

IN THE MATTER OF THE JUDICIAL
DECLARATION OF LEGITIMATION
AND CHANGE OF NAME OF THE MINOR
KEVIN CHRISTIAN GARCIA AND
CORRECTION OF ENTRIES IN THE
CIVIL REGISTRY

SP. PROC. CASE No. 442-V-92

MANUEL P. EREÑETA AND ROSEMARIE
C. EREÑETA,

Petitioners.

x-----x

ORDER

In a verified petition dated September 11, 1992, having been filed on October 9, 1992 by the above-named petitioners, thru counsel, alleging among others, that petitioners are of legal age, husband and wife and are resident of Apt. 10 Halili Complex, 922 Aurora Boulevard, Quezon City; that on December 22, 1986, petitioners then being single, bore a child, KEVINCHRISTIAN out of wedlock and at the time of the child's conception, either of the petitioners was disqualified by any impediment to marry each other, as evidenced by his Certificate of Live Birth attached to the petition marked as "Annex A"; that on June 19, 1992, petitioners got married in Catholic rites at the Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Shrine Parish, a copy of the Marriage Contract marked as Annex "B" of the petition, and petitioner, Manuel P. Ereñeta, in a public sworn statement acknowledged that said Kevin Christian is his child by Rosemarie Ereñeta, a Sworn Statement marked as Annex "C" of the petition; that pursuant to Article 178 of Executive Order No. 209, otherwise known as the Family Code of the Philippines, said child is considered legitimated by subsequent marriage; that petitioners have no other children; that upon a judicial declaration by this Honorable Court of the legitimation of said Kevin Christian, it is the desire of the petitioners to have said child use the surname "Ereñeta" and to have and exercise all the rights of a legitimate child, and a need to correct entries in the record of the child's birth to reflect his correct status, paternity and name;

It appearing that the petition is sufficient in form and substance, let the same be set for hearing on May 10, 1993 at 2:00 p.m., in the session hall of the Regional Trial Court of Valenzuela, Metro Manila, Branch 75, at which date, time and place, all interested persons who may want to oppose the same may appear and show cause, if they have any, why the petition should not be granted.

Let a copy of this Order be published at the expense of the petitioner in any newspaper of general circulation throughout the Philippines, to be selected through a raffle to be conducted by the Executive Judge of this Court once a week for three (3) consecutive weeks, such that the hearing shall not be within four (4) months from the last publication of this Order, and let a copy of this Order and of the petition and its annexes be served on the Office of the Solicitor General by the Deputy Sheriff of this Court, at the expense of the petitioner.

SO ORDERED.

Valenzuela, Metro Manila, October 22, 1992.

(Sgd.) REYNALDO Y. MAULIT
Judge

WE FORUM

Dec. 28, 1992, Jan. 4, 11, 1993

1992:

Wars and famine

(Conclusion)

By ERIC GIRON

HINDU-MUSLIM RIOTS

Hindus destroyed a 16th-century Muslim mosque which they believed stood on the birthplace of their god-king Rama in Ayodha, India Dec. 6, touching off religious riots that killed 220 people. The elite Action Force's 4,000 men drove out 200,000 Hindus who displayed no aggression from the demolished mosque without firing a shot at 3:30 p.m. Police arrested Lal Krishan Advani, the Bharatiya Janata Party leader in parliament, and party president Murli Manohar Joshi who led the devotees and their disciples in a religious ceremony that erupted into chaos. Ayodha is a pilgrimage town of 8,000 Hindu temples.

AIR CRASHES

Both starboard engines of El Al Boeing 747-200 jet of Israel caught fire after takeoff from Schiphol Airport in Amsterdam Oct. 4 and smashed into a V-shaped building in a densely-populated area, killing 250. Pilot Yitzhak Fuchs and three crewmen died.

The pilot tried to jettison fuel from the jet's full tank shortly before it ploughed into blocks of the nine-storey apartment, engulfing it in flames. The firefighting crew worked slowly to bring the fire under control and to clear wreckage for fear that rubble and debris could collapse on rescue teams. By early Monday morning, 12 bodies had been recovered.

Seattle-based Boeing asked 69 operators worldwide to inspect fuse pins that help connect engines to the wings of 747-200 and other models because in December 1991 a China Air 747-200 freighter dropped two engines from its right wing after takeoff in Taipei. Five crew members died in that crash.

● **China**—All 133 passengers and eight crew members of a non-scheduled China Southern Airlines Boeing 737 flight which took off from Canton died when it belched smoke and crashed into a mountain of Guilin tourist city on Nov. 24. Before the crash, the pilot reported his altitude at 2,000 meters. But debris was scattered over a large area at 600 meters altitude.

Three air crashes occurred in China within three months. During takeoff from Nanjing airport, a Soviet-made passenger plane crashed, killing 107 people on July 31. A helicopter carrying Japanese tourists crashed August 11 near the Great Wall outside Beijing, killing 15 people. A small Wuhan Airline Co. chartered plane carrying 11 tourists

from Taiwan, 14 from West Europe, and three mainlanders with a crew of seven crashed Oct. 8 in Huajia village in northwest Gansu province, killing 13 and injuring four persons.

● A Dutch woman aboard a Vietnam Airlines flight that disappeared in a typhoon waited nearly a week surrounded by 29 dead fellow passengers in O Kha Valley, Kahn Hoa Province. The Vietnamese rescue helicopter looking for the wreckage of the Soviet-built Yak-40 with seven Vietnamese on board, crashed in the same area. Annette Herfkens, 31, was found Nov. 20 still alive and was evacuated to Singapore from Ho Chi Minh City.

EARTHQUAKES

Egypt's 20-second 5.9 earthquake on Oct. 15 killed 541 people, injured 3,369, and left thousands homeless in Cairo. More than 100 school children and others were trampled to death as they rushed from swaying schools.

The Sphinx and the pyramids on Giza Plateau, and Aswan Dam which holds back 310-mile long Lake Nasser, survived the temblor. Only two of 100,000 pieces on display that were damaged were the limestone statues of New Kingdom Pharaoh Amenophis III and his consort Queen Tiye.

Two people died, 60 were injured, and 8,000 left homeless by an intensity 7.2 earthquake that shook a coffee-growing area in San Pedro de Urabia on Oct. 18, a day after a 6.6 tremor had hit it. Four missing persons were believed dead. Although more powerful than that which hit Cairo, the two quakes occurred in remote rural areas where single-storey dwellings resisted shocks.

People gathered around steaming Cacagual Geyser 60 kilometers from the Caribbean coast which exploded, severely burning 36 persons. A fiery hail of mud and stones buried houses and swallowed two people. One woman died of burns, 40 were hurt. A volcanic mound rose 90 meters high from the depression. A wall collapsed on top of a girl, killing her, at Antioquia village.

A minute-long 6.8 temblor flattened 200 buildings in Erzincan, Turkey, cracked roads, caused an avalanche and killed up to 4,000 people. Thousands were left homeless in the harsh winter. A quarter of the city was reduced to rubble. Much of the city of 150,000 had been rebuilt from a 1939 earthquake that killed 32,000 people. Its only hospital and medical school col-

lapsed. Turkey's Aegean and Mediterranean coastal areas and the eastern region sit atop the Anatolian earthquake-prone fault.

A devastating earthquake of 6.8 intensity raised 80-foot freak waves that swamped eastern Indonesia Dec. 12 and killed at least 1,895 people and left over 1,000 missing. The freak waves swept off all 1,200 people from Babi island. Some 200 people drowned in two fishing villages of Flores island near Maumere town where 80% of the buildings were destroyed by the quakes. President Fidel Ramos sent a \$100,000 relief check for the Indonesian victims.

TORNADOES' TOLL

Weekend tornadoes raking across south and northward to Ohio and Indiana killed at least 20 people, smashed houses and tore a steeple loose during Sunday services. In Mississippi, 15 people were killed, 150 injured. Smashing across Brandon, Miss., a tornado killed a father, his son along with two Cub Scout buddies spending the night. One died in Tennessee.

The tornadoes moved across Georgia, killed one person, injured nine in northern Kentucky. A tornado touched down in Arcanum village (Ohio). Thunderstorms and tornadoes wrecked homes and businesses in Alabama, Indiana and Georgia, left Indianapolis without power, injured people in Texas and Louisiana. A midnight storm east of Jackson leveled houses, uprooted trees and poles.

PACIFIC TYPHOONS

Typhoon Omar, the first of five in four months to cause major damage in Guam, killed one person in August. Typhoon Gay struck northern Marshall Islands on Nov. 20, causing 5,000 people to lose their homes. A woman and her husband flung themselves into the surf when their yacht struck an atoll. The unnamed man survived, the woman disappeared. Gay struck Guam in the morning of Nov. 23. It unroofed some houses but caused no large damage.

OTHER TOP NEWS

The Associated Press added to its list of top 1992 stories the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro that focused attention on world environmental problems, the continued spread of Anti-Immunity Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS), Thailand's pro-democrat crackdown, anti-crime crusaders killed in Italy, and Muslim rebels' seizure of Afghanistan capital and the eruption of factional violence.

Newsmakers of 1992

Is royalty still necessary?

"ANNUS HORRIBILIS (horrible year)" was how Queen Elizabeth II described 1992, the 40th year of her accession to the British throne. The queen's frank reference to the royal family's troubles surprised commentators used to her usual cautious aloofness. It indicated she had been hurt by scandal surrounding the marriages of her three children who will live separate lives.

Prince Charles, heir to the British throne, moved out Dec. 10 from Kensington Palace in London which he had shared for 11 years with his wife, Princess Diana, who moved into Kensington from the country estate given to her and the prince as a wedding present by the queen in 1981. Charles was offered rooms in the London home of his grandmother, 92. His main residence is Highgrove mansion.

The split means Charles could lose the crown and Diana will not become queen if they divorce. In this case, the couple's eldest son, Prince William, 10, may become the heir apparent. This will plunge the monarchy in its worst crisis since 1936 when Edward VIII abdicated to marry American divorcee Wallis Simpson. Charles said he will not remarry.

Princess Anne, 42, who divorced the father of her two children, Mark Phillips last April, became the first top royal in 400 years to remarry her long-time suitor, Navy Commander Timothy Laurence, 37, in Crathie, Scotland. The last senior royal member who divorced and remarried five times was King Henry VIII in the 16th century.

Red-haired Duchess of York Sarah Ferguson, estranged wife of Prince Andrew, was unapologetic for the photographs of her smooching topless with Texas businessman John Bryan at a French Riviera villa last summer. She sued *Paris Match* which printed the photos and a photo agency which denied taking them a week after their publication in Britain had caused an outcry.

Capping off the queen's woes, fire devastated her 900-year-old Windsor castle west of London (begun about 1070). Toward noon Nov. 20, fire broke out at the queen's private chapel, destroyed St. George's banquet hall and state rooms in a 300-by-50-meter area. Flames racing up one wooden staircase destroyed the carvings forming the building's fabric by master wood carver Grinling Gibbons to King George I, who died in 1720.

Queen Elizabeth spent her 45th wedding anniversary helping Prince Andrew, troops and civilians carry art works by Rembrandt, Rubens, Van Dyck, Holbein, and Canaletto, drawings by Leonardo da Vinci, furniture, porcelain, and tapestries to safety as 225 firefighters fought the flames.

The *Daily Mail* decried why

the public should pay for the 60-100 million pounds (\$90-\$150 million) cost of restoring the 1,000-room castle's fabric when the queen, who paid no taxes, "contributes next to nothing."

The queen immediately volunteered to pay the top 40% income tax on her \$50 million a year income, her private Balmoral and Sandringham estates, and to reimburse the treasury for payments to her children Anne, Andrew, and Edward, her sister Princess Margaret, and her 90-year-old aunt, Princess Alice. The civil list was pared to Elizabeth, the Queen Mother, and Prince Philip. The queen will retain \$12 million a year for household expenses.

Prince Charles, who paid 25% on the \$3.2 million profit in 1991 on his 56,200-hectare Duchy of Cornwall with 180 tenants and commercial properties in England and Wales, volunteered to pay taxes on



PRINCE CHARLES

the same basis as his mum.

● **Catfight of 1992**—Indonesian President Sukarno's widow Ratna Sari Dewi Sukarno, 51, was handcuffed at a posh ski lodge in Aspen, Colorado Jan. 2 for slashing Victoria (Minnie) Osmeña, 43, in the face with a champagne glass at Prince Henrich Hanau Schaumburg's party. Minnie left the hospital with 15 stitches on her face Jan. 3. Nothing is clear on what Minnie called the "aging geisha girl's Pearl Harbor attack" on her.

New Yorkers gossiped it was a fight over the nephew of the Shah of Iran or actor George Hamilton. Minnie said Dewi was jealous over another Oriental beauty (herself) taking center stage or making a name in business. Dewi is a broker for electronic goods and pharmaceuticals in New York.

Freed on a \$5,000 bond for second-degree assault, Dewi asked Pitkin County district court to throw out Minnie's \$10 million lawsuit against her. She intended to collect more when she sued Ms. Osmeña for "slander, outrageous conduct and assault." For all her bravado, Dewi pleaded guilty to second-degree assault and disorderly conduct.

Her sentence for disorderly conduct on Jan. 22 may place her on two-year probation as she performs community service, or six months in jail. Colorado's minimum sentence for second-degree assault is five years. If Dewi lives up to

the judge's rule, this charge will be dropped after a two-year probation.

● **UK's richest man**—The landowning Duke of Westminster was deposed as Britain's richest man by sex magazine publisher Paul Raymond, who owns property in London's Soho nightclub area. A *Business Age* survey estimated Raymond had accumulated a personal fortune of at least 1.5 billion pounds (\$2.26 billion) through sex and property deals.

● **Unwed mother**—Unwed Princess Stephanie, 27, daughter of Prince Rainier and the late Princess Grace Kelly of Monaco, delivered a healthy 6.8-pound boy, named Louis Robert Paul. She left the hospital on the arm of the baby's handsome father, her former bodyguard Daniel Ducruet, 28, whom she plans to wed. Prince Rainier was furious when Stephanie told reporters she



PRINCESS DIANA

was pregnant in May. She moved into a villa next door to her sister Caroline and three children.

● **Heavyweight champ**—It was a case of a good big man, Riddick Bowe (6'5") battering a good little man, Evander Holyfield (6'2"), knocking him down in the 10th and 11th rounds at Thomas and Mack Center, Las Vegas to gain the heavyweight crown. After the bout, Bowe wanted to fight Mike Tyson, who was due to challenge Holyfield on Nov. 8, 1991 but he injured a rib. Tyson is now in an Indiana prison serving a term on a rape charge. Holyfield, 30, could retire with \$80 million career earnings.

● **Stern smear**—Howard Stern of Infinity Broadcasting Corp. which syndicates his radio show in the US, faces a \$65 million lawsuit for "vicious and malicious statements" to defame the Filipinos filed by a Fil-American organization on the East Coast. Lawyers of the Foreign Information Council noted "an orchestrated campaign funded by certain quarters in the US," particularly, those connected with Little League International, which nullified the championship victory of Philippine Little Leaguers over the US team at Long Beach, California. The Philippine embassy in Washington deplored Stern's commentaries in a note verbale to the US State Department. —Eric S. Giron

Great job

THE SENATE Committee on Banks chaired by Sen. Raul Roco has done a great job on the behest loans amounting to P194.8 billion granted by super-thief Marcos to favored cronies and lackeys for his usual percentage take. After reviewing the records of 419 borrower companies, Roco made good his promise to name the "behesters" and referred the findings to the Ombudsman and the PCGG for proper disposition. Among those in the list is Jose de Venecia, Jr., the speaker of the house, who was identified in the report as the president of the Landoil Group of Companies with a P3.9 billion loan.

The others are familiar names in a Who's Who list during the Marcos kleptocracy. They are Jesus Cabarrus, Jr. of Marinduque Mining with P22.68 billion, Rodolfo Cuenca of Philippine National Construction Corporation with P8.78 billion, Antonio Tankiang of Batong Buhay Gold Mines with P4.9 billion, Manuel Elizalde, Jr. of North Davao Mining with P4.71 billion, Jose Dans of Erectors Inc. with P2.4 billion, Ricardo Silverio of Delta Motors Corporation with P1.64 billion, and Herminio Disini, of Cellophil Resources with P1.6 billion. Their loans are included in the COA criteria governing these borrowings, like "presence of marginal notes by high government officials" and "close links of the borrowers with the Marcos family." Of the 419 borrower firms, it must be mentioned in fairness to others that most are in the nature of "ordinary transactions and some have fully paid." It is these "behesters" who absconded with the money and left the government with skeleton companies who must now be made to pay for their crime.

They have screwed 60 million Filipinos who are not even eating regularly by passing on to them P194.8 billion in liabilities that the government has assumed and for which the people are now paying taxes. This staggering sum includes P29.8 billion for the Bataan Nuclear Power Plant, P72.1 billion for the Philippine National Bank, P83.7 billion for the Development Bank of the Philippines, P2.8 billion by the National Development Corp., and P6.4 billion for the Philippine Export and Foreign Loan Guarantee Corporation. The officials who approved these loans are just as guilty as the borrowers. They also got their share of the loot. The Senate committee should have exerted efforts to identify them also for their active participation in the plunder of the national treasury. It should make for a truly comprehensive report.

Nevertheless, the public is happy that some start has been made by the Roco committee to make these criminals pay. With the report as basis, the Ombudsman should not have a hard time pin-pointing the blame on the guilty. Unless its investigators are bought, but then Justice Conrado Vasquez is known to thoroughly peruse his subordinates' recommendations. And he has a fighting and honest deputy in Francisco Villa who has a reputation for getting the job done.

Back from Thailand

PRESIDENT FIDEL V. Ramos returned Sunday from a four-day official visit to Thailand with glowing reports about a mission accomplished. His arrival statement was significant, if only for the insights he gained from that rapidly developing country. According to him, the Philippines and Thailand "share the conviction that the most effective road to sustainable economic growth is through the liberalization of the rules and conditions for trade and investment, privatization of enterprise and the opening of the economy to the region and the world." Why he had to go to Thailand to discover these viewpoints is somewhat puzzling.

If he does not know it yet, the bureaucratic red tape in this country could

OUR REGRETS

After verification, we acknowledge that the accusations against Congressman Dante O. Tinga which appeared in the editorial and the column "OUR DAYS" by F.T. Ocampo in the December 14 and 18, 1989 issues of the "We Forum," more particularly the allegations of self-aggrandizement; acquisition of fleet of cars; nepotism; use of public funds to finance foreign travels; involvement in the approval of the Jai-Alai bill for a financial consideration, are baseless, unfounded and patently devoid of truth.

Consequently, we sincerely apologize to Congressman Dante O. Tinga for what we have done to him.

(JOSE G. BURGOS, JR./FABIAN T. OCAMPO)



MANILA STANDARD, December 21, 1992

suffocate the most dedicated foreign investor. As for privatization, has the President not heard of how Britain's Iron Lady Margaret Thatcher dramatically turned the then sluggish British economy by returning inefficient, losing and bankrupt public companies to private ownership? With this move, these former white elephants ceased to be a burden to the taxpayers. Ramos could do the same with the water, power, oil and railroad firms. As for *laissez faire*, even the super-patriots have come to realize that economic nationalism and protectionism would only stultify any nation's economic growth to a point of stagnation.

He said his visit would eventually lead to agreements on information exchange on drug trafficking, protection of tropical rain forest and expansion of existing commercial links. What can anyone say to that who knows his sincere efforts to do a good job of the presidency?

But not only did he meet the highest Thai government officials, he also met the king and queen. On this note, his was a successful trip.

Save national park

THERE ARE reports that the Bicol National Park connecting Camarines Norte and Camarines Sur is going the way of other forest reserves in this country. Of the over 4,000 hectares of trees that used to straddle the two provinces, more than 1,900 hectares have been "wiped out," says a BNP report. This, despite the relocation of some 200 squatter families last year to arrest the denudation caused by slash-and burn farming.

But like the hydra monster, you cut one head and here grows another. After the *kaingeros* left, very soon comes the greedy loggers with their huge hauler trucks and chainsaws. Soon the park will cease to be unless the government bares more teeth against these despoilers of the patrimony. The BNP may just be one in a handful of remaining woodland parks. It should be saved for the coming generations to enjoy.

We Forum



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JOSE G. BURGOS, JR.
PUBLISHER-EDITOR

Truelogue on Japan

A CULTURAL delegation representing the CONAPE (Confederacion Nacional de Profesores de España) of the Philippines will attend an international conference in Tokyo, Japan, early next year. The CONAPE representatives invited by the host city organizing committee are:

Dra. Rosario (Ching) Valdez-Lamug, Professor Guillermo Rivera Gomez, Professor Lourdes Carballo, Majela Guerrero Barranco, and Miss Maruxa Pita of the Spanish embassy, Cultural Center, Manila, who will sit as observer.

The Philippine delegates have ample background on Spanish affairs. Each of them has either studied in Madrid and travelled extensively in Spain and Europe. Dra. Ching Valdez-Lamug is the outgoing president of the CONAPE, which Prof. Rivera Gomez is the incoming president of the Federation in 1993.

Dra. Lourdes Carballo is with Dra. Valdez-Lamug in the University of the East. Prof. Barranco is with Centro Escolar University where she has been teaching English and

Spanish. She holds a master of Arts degree from the University of Madrid.

Dean-Prof. Rivera Gomez is with Adamson University, Manila. He is editor-in-chief of the weekly Nueva Era which is published by Edna Ynciong family of Batangas province. River Gomez also edits two other weeklies of the Ynciong chain of newweeklies, namely, the Tagalog-language *Chronicle* and the English language *Listening Post*. He also publishes occasionally on his own, the literary journal *El Maestro*.

Although all members of the Philippine delegation come from the CONAPE, and all have studied in Madrid and have travelled extensively in Europe, they wanted to be briefed on the economic, social and cultural life in Japan.

Dra. Valdez-Lamug, who had been head of the CONAPE for many years until two years ago when the confederation hosted the international assembly in Manila, has the distinction of having received the foreign decoration of Isabel la Catolica, from the foreign min-

istry of Spain. The decoration was given at a ceremony in Manila Hotel by the Foreign Minister of the Spanish government himself who visited the Philippines then.

The delegates to the Tokyo world assembly are familiarizing themselves with Japan. The book titled "Windows for the Crown Prince" is the best book on Japan that I have personally read. It was written by Elizabeth Gray Vining, a Quaker from Philadelphia who was chosen by both His Majesty Emperor Hirohito and Gen. Douglas MacArthur to tutor Crown Prince Akihito, heir apparent to the Imperial throne of Japan to bring up the Prince as a democrat, an Emperor different from his ancestors.

For four years, the American teacher Mrs. Elizabeth Gray Vining did her work admirably. Now Emperor Akihito is a democrat in the truest sense of the word. His sport is tennis.

The Tokyo conference on Spanish language will bring together delegates from Far Eastern and Pacific countries in Korea, Guam, Hawaii and from the various Southeast Asian nations

TOWN CRIER



by VIC BARRANCO

which have organizations for the promotion of Spanish language and culture.

The world assembly will have three-days of working sessions in Tokyo. The delegates will tour Japan afterward, to experience riding on the Bullet Express train to Kyoto, the old capital of Japan; to Nara, city of the sacred deer; and Osaka, industrial port city in the south.

Because of very high prices in Japan, the Philippine delegates, like any other visitors would rather do only some sightseeing in that countryside and the Ginza and then do their shopping in Hong Kong, on the way home.

The world assembly is scheduled for four days in Tokyo, starting about January 8 to 12.

Ayala's power and clout

TOKYO — It is so cold here at this time of the year but quite convenient to type articles of this nature for there is no disturbance whatsoever. No ringing of the phones except for a few from my friends in the international networking setup. It is very peaceful all over and the St. Anselm's Church where I go to Mass and receive Holy Communion everyday is just three minutes walk from where I stay. As a consumer activist, I have to, once in a while, seek refuge in such a quiet place for the stress and pressure of daily living in the Philippines can really killed a person of lesser strength and stamina. For many years, I have been fighting the Powerful "Mafias" and giants like Ayala. Being on the side of justice is a very hard job but somehow with God's Grace, I have managed to survive. The consumer cause is a very demanding master and in the Philippines where majority of our consumers are poor, now can one like me afford to just close my eyes to the pitiful situation? So, right now, I am following up with the Meguro City officials the donation of used bicycles for The Good Shepherd Foundation who in turn will distribute these bicycles to

various projects in the Philippines. Its energy-saving aspect will also encourage people in the rural areas to build feeder roads in a bayanihan spirit. Militant activists here in the cooperatives and in the Third World Shops are a great help indeed. And here where the economic setup is very well described by economist Lester Thurow in his book, "HEAD TO HEAD," one gets the satisfaction that the economic setup runs very smoothly which brings me to my subject-matter AYALA'S CLOUT AND POWER.

In the Philippines, if you cross the path of Ayala, chances are you will have a very difficult time getting out of the situation and be a winner. Its battery of public relations men and women plus the Ayala Foundation are a very formidable wall and its octopus-like connections made more potent in the Cory years due to husband and wife teams and the proliferation of the Powerful "Mafias" is already legend.

But as is true with the Royals of England, some cracks are beginning to show and if one will listen to the grapevines, indeed this can be a source of worry in a society where *tsismis* is a daily fare. However, as

a consumer activist, I am more inclined to write about how Ayala's clout and power and its greed has been affecting adversely the economic situation of the poor and marginalized consumers, consumers who have no clout at all like those farmers in a land dispute with Ayala whose source of water was cut at naging kaawaawa sila. I have with me files of documents which tell how Ayala works and will indeed be included in my book, THE POWERFUL "Mafias" to teach these Royals the lesson that not everybody can be bought.

Their tactics speak of smartness which probably some people do not have the time to analyze. Take, for instance, this part of Tony Gaticca's column in the *Manila Standard* of December 15, 1992 which looks very innocent indeed: "It would appear that the Asian Institute of Management has decided to expand its present facilities. Any such plan must include Ayala Land, Inc. So ALI made its presentation to the AIM board and faculty. Leading the presentors was Fernando Zobel himself, and he and his first team almost swamped the AIM group with a scale model of the proposed high-

TEA W/ JULIE



by JULIE AMARGO

rise building, the artist's perspectives, and the usual art work and video of the proposed development project. During the open forum that followed the rather long but complete presentation, a professor stood up and in all seriousness remarked a "Why don't we ask Philreality if they have a better offer?" We understand Andoy and his group were not amused."

Not that the open space in Makati, subject of my expose in Vic San Agustin's column of December 14's COCKTALES has some questionable aspects. Knowing how the SGV Mafia's and AIM's Washington Sycip works, with the AYALA interest, guess why suddenly AIM is expanding its facilities and AYALA is in it. (To be continued)

1992: Government . . . (From page 3)

"coddling kidnappers." Zarcal and Pring were implicated by confessed kidnapper Patrolman Nonito Arile, turned state witness. As PACC members, Estrada invited Zarcal and Pring to his house where he placed them under arrest without a warrant.

A body exhumed with seven others from a Marikina grave with a shot at the back of the head was identified as Mandawe businessman William Dy by his elder sister, Dr. Marianito Dy-Mendoza, and brother-in-law Democrito Mendoza (TUCP president). Dy had gone to Manila to buy marble slabs for his construction business and disappeared in Caloocan. An NBI autopsy on the corpse found the fingerprints did not match those on Dy's Comelec record. The mystery has yet to be unraveled.

•PACC ASSAILED

Sen. Ernesto Maceda branded the PACC claim that out of 97 kidnap suspects arrested, 23 were killed, as responding to crime "by way of a bloodbath."

"Shoot now, investigate later" seems to be the PACC standard operating procedure, the senator said. He related how PACC Task Force Habagat under Col. Panfilo Lacson descended on three

homes at Barangay Pantay Matanda, Tanauan, Batangas at 1:30 a.m. Oct. 12 and mauled the residents. A raider dragged out vegetable farmer Wilfredo Aala, whom he mistook for Cesar Galicia, kidnap gang leader, and repeatedly shot him. "The summary execution was unconscionable," Maceda said.

He denounced the PACC killing of Pasay police brothers Elmer and Jeoffrey Pineda, lawyer Luis Matro and Leonardo Montalvo in a jeep at Magallanes center along South Superhighway on Oct. 2, wounding in the process four bus passengers with bullets; also the killing of five Hong Kong nationals and Vice President Joseph Estrada's summary deportation of eight to Hong Kong as drug ring members. Only two were detained by Hong Kong authorities.

PACC Inspector Napoleon Villegas picked up Carmelita Intal, 25, and Magdalena de Leon-Apostol, niece and sister of Red Scorpion gang leader Alfredo de Leon, while leaving the PLDT office in Makati. Apostol's children appeared on TV crying, pleading for their mother's release. Intal, student of St. Louis University in Baguio, was grilled on Nov. 12 by Baguio police with three others on the whereabouts of De Leon.

Maceda said officers like Villegas and Lacson "have shown callousness to the loss of innocent lives and disregard for the rights of citizens." He asked President Ramos not to allow the PACC "to overstep the bounds of the law." He said the PACC has expanded its scope to a "sari-sari operation" from ransom kidnapping to the airport, the pier, Chinatown, against illegal gambling and logging operations, what Estrada calls "rogues in business suits" and threatens to go into tax evasion and hebest loans.

Human Rights Commissioner Sedfrey Ordoñez vowed to go after PACC agents who violate human rights. Estrada said he had grounded 19 PACC agents under probe for summary execution of criminal suspects. He dissolved Task Forces Lawin under Superintendent Reynaldo Berroya and Isarog under lawyer Anthony Liongson with 200 men. He retained 100 men under Lacson's Habagat. The rest were returned to their mother units.

COPS UNDER FIRE

Police Captain Reynaldo Jaylo is facing trial before the Sandiganbayan for leading 17 policemen detailed with the NBI when Alfredo Lim headed it, who killed Col. Rolando de Guzman, Major Franco Calanog and CIS Agent Avelino Nepomuceno in a supposed P10 million drug buy-bust at Magallanes commercial center. Jaylo and the rest resigned from the NBI.

State Prosecutor Aurelio Trampe grounded 132 police officers and men accused of multiple murder of 17 alleged kidnappers in five separate raids from 3 a.m. March 18 in the bloody rescue of American vice president Michael Barnes, 41, of Phil. Geothermal Inc. at a Las Piñas bungalow. All six who held Barnes were slain. Raiders killed a man and the couple Ricarte and Lina Angeles in Marikina, leaving three Angeles children, 1 to 5 years old, crying.

Others slain were Jose Mananquil in Makati, Rex Puro, Lito Diaz and another in Parañaque, two in San Pedro (Laguna), three in Mandaluyong.

Two of the three slain in Mandaluyong were identified by rescued businessmen Reynaldo Tan among his abductors in Antipolo.

MUBARAK SLAIN

Mindanao's most notorious kidnapper, Kumander Mubarak (Abogado Gado Salilagula), 29, who made a P100 million fortune kidnapping 31 Chinese businessmen, was shot dead with two bodyguards by a marine-police contingent in his Pantukan town hideout in Davao del Norte Dec. 6. He tried to hack down a soldier, thinking his amulet would protect him from bullets. His comrades, Jimmy Abolodio and Faizal Marohomsar, are carrying on in Maguindanao and Cotabato.

In Basilan island-province, prominent physi-

(Page 7, please)

Alunan's woes never end . . .

MORE THAN everything else, let me wish my readers and all the *We Forum* patrons a very MERRY CHRISTMAS and A BLESSED AND PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR. With all the problems besetting our people, one can only hope and wish during these days - Christmas or no Christmas but especially at Christmas which, indeed is a time of hope.

Department of Local Government Secretary Rafael Alunan has just charged with gun-running. Right or wrong, correct or false, this new charge just further buries Alunan's chances of confirmation by the Commission on Appointments. The \$64 question in many political watchers' mind is whether President Ramos will reappoint Alunan in defiance of the Commission on Appointments but with a new Senate leadership in the offing at the next session who knows? Perhaps Alunan's fortunes may also change.

Speaking about the change in the Senate leadership, some LDP senators have assured me that they will keep their party affiliations and their independent postures under all circumstances. But I do not buy this crap; the mere fact alone that they opted to bow to the biddings of the President after that dinner in Angara's residence, I doubt it very much if they can, in conscience still consider themselves LDPs. As far as I am concerned, all LDP senators who switched sides against Neptali have lost their right to be LDPs. Can you imagine LDPs voting against their own party president? According to my informant, he also believes that whether they

are expelled by the LDP or not, in six months time at the most, they will switch parties anyway and he insisted that this will be especially true to the senators whose terms will end in 1995.

Last December 20, our flight from Iloilo to Manila was delayed by more than two hours when PR 144 supposed to depart from Iloilo at 4:10 PM actually left at 6:00 PM. Reason, the international and domestic terminals in the NAIA were closed for the arrival of President Ramos from Bangkok. I have no quarrel with these security requirement but why can't PAL notify its passengers so they do not get inconvenienced going to the airport when the flight is long delayed? In fact when you book for a flight, PAL people always ask if you have a telephone where you can be notified of flight changes but in almost all instances that I am booked in delayed flights, I have never received notices from the airlines.

In the Metropolitan area, we have movie actor Robin Padilla who was in the news for illegal possession of firearms and was finally indicted because of the scandal he created. But in Zambales there is this ex-mayor who was caught with many high powered guns in his house when raided by Metrodiscom units but was never indicted because he happens to be a cousin of a congressman. When he was caught, he tried to present mission orders from the governor *daw*. But the governor has no such authority so he was still booked but all of a sudden, I was told that this ex-mayor was able to show papers from

the PNP showing permit to hold those firearms. *Daig pa nito si Robin Padilla*. That is one classical example of how the PNP operates on double standards.

Senator Raul Roco was quoted as saying that the "behest loan" cases should be properly prosecuted. I agree with Roco but between his moves to prosecute and the actual indictments, that is a long long road to take especially with the change of leadership in the Senate. *Kasi* the law firm where Roco used to be top gun was lawyering for many of those involved in "behest loans" and I doubt it very much if they will have the appetite to prosecute their one time clients. *Pero tingnan natin* because Roco is a reelectionist in 1995 so he may opt to side with national interests this time.

I was in Iloilo City for a few days last week. Iloilo City is starting to regain its past glory as the "queen city of the south" but could grow even more under a more assertive and effective leadership. Whatever people say about the faults of then Mayor Rodolfo Ganzon, he still remains as the best mayor Iloilo has ever had because he had the political will to institute reforms and to collect taxes which has raised Iloilo City's income from a mere P35 million when he took over in 1989 to more than P70 millions when he left. Perhaps if Roding was not harassed with all kinds of suspensions by then Secretary Luis Santos, he could have done more for Iloilo City. Now Iloilo City is again moving at snail's pace and everyone tells me that there is so much

IN MY CORNER...



by RAUL M. GONZALEZ

graft and corruption in the city government. I also noticed the proliferation of squatters. In fact right where I have my house along Quintin Salas street, almost all the open canals have been appropriated by squatters who have built their shanties over the canals thus effectively blocking the waters when heavy rains fall which have caused flash floods in the area. These squatter colonies are there for the city authorities to see but they have done nothing until now. Even sanitation suffers because of human wastes and pigstys all over which cause foul smell to the neighborhood.

Despite all the supposed peace meeting with rebel groups - leftists and rightists, it appears that the NPA forces have not laid low, shown by the recent attacks by the NPAs in various military and PNP detachments in Isabela which has caused substantial damage and losses to the government. In the most recent attacks in Isabela another aircraft was burned and many government equipments were carted away. Perhaps the NPAs do not really want peace with the government, no matter who holds power. This is something for the NUC to reflect upon, indeed.

KILATISIN NATIN



ni JOEY PAPA

BAGONG TAON na pala. Ito muli ang maririnig sa mga kababayan nating mahihirap. Paano'y wala namang ipinagkaiba sa mga nagdaang taon, kasalukuyan, at itong darating. Ang ipinagkakaiba lamang marahil ay ang patuloy na paghihirap nang gulapay na sa paghihikahos na si Juan de la Cruz.

Sa pagtatapos pa lang ng taong ito ay may ipapataw na hirap na naman ang NAPOCOR — ang pagtaas ng singil sa kuryente! Natural na epekto nito ay ang pagtaas din ng lahat ng mga bilihin na gumagamit ng kuryente. Bakit ganito ang pagbubukas natin ng bagong taon? Lagi na lang may "sorpresa" sa mamamayan. Ang problema ay pawang "sorpresang parusa" ang handog sa atin.

Maganda ang "moral recovery program" na ilulunsad ng pamahalaang Ramos kung ito'y maipatutupad ng tapat at tuloy-tuloy. Tinangka na ito ng pamahalaang Aquino ngunit sa umpisa pa lamang ay waring wala nang nangyari. Kung may nangyari ba, ito ay may magaganap pang mga katiwalian, scam, sa ating pamahalaan? Ngunit paanong maniniwala ang mga Pilipino na may mangyayari sa balak nilang programa? Manhid na sila sa kung anu-anong programa sa ngalan nila, ng bayan, at ng demokrasya. Kung papalpak na naman ito, wala na tayong patutungan kundi kaguluhan.

Kung maipatutupad ito ni Pangulong Ramos, naniniwala akong malaki ang magaganap

na pagbabago sa ating lipunan. Ngunit ang "moral recovery program" ay kailangang simulan ng pangulong Ramos mismo at ng matataas na pinuno ng pamahalaan. Isang pagkakamali lamang ito ay wala nang kapupuntahan ito.

Halimbawa ng pagpapakita ng katapatan ng pamahalaan ay sa repormang pansakahan. Walang nakikitang pagbabago mula ng maitatag ang CARP. Nagkaroon ng mga pnomalya, iskandalo, pagbibenta ng lupa, land conversion, at mga katiwalian isusumpa ng mamamayang Pilipino hangga't hindi napaparusahan ang mga sangkot

Mga sorpresa sa Bagong Taon

na mga opisyal. Ngunit waring walang ginagawa ang pamahalaan para ayusin ang gusot na ito na siyang dahilan ng patuloy na armadong pakikibaka sa kanayunan ng mga magsasaka. Masyadong minamaliit ng pamahalaan ang kakayahan ng mga magsasaka na maglunsad ng sarili nilang repormang pansakahan. Ilang halimbawa na ang pagkumpiska ng mga tiwangwang na lupa ang ginawa ng mga magsasaka sa kanayunan ng walang gawin ang pamahalaan dito.

Kung nais ng pamahalaan ng kapayapaan, dapat pagtuunan ng pansin ang repormang pansakahan. Dahil ito ang siyang magiging batayan ng simula ng tunay na pag-uusap

pangkabayapaan at ganap na makakamit ang kapayapaan sa hinaharap.

Walang silbi ang mga inisyatibang pang kapayapaan kung gutom ang Pilipino. Ni hindi nga nila kilala ang Diyos kapag walang laman ang kanilang tiyan. Paanong hindi sila lalaban sa pamahalaan kung mamamatay sila ng dilat sa paghihintay ng biyayang hindi naman darating? Kaysa mamatay ng dilat, mamamatay na lamang sila ng may dignidad at lumalaban — 'yan ang katwiran ng mga mahihirap nating magsasaka.

Isang mapagpalayang Pasko at Bagong Taon sa inyong lahat!

1992: Government . . . (From page 6)

cian Nilo Barandino, his wife Cristina, 41, their eight children and a nephew went to a picnic at their Matarling farm in Lantawan, Isabela, Nov. 25. They were abducted at Barangay Lumbang. At 10 a.m. the next day, Barandino's sister received a radio message from Muslim kidnappers led by Jul Jilang demanding P1.5 million ransom, four radio sets, two sacks of rice and cigars.

Police found the family pickup near the highway with the picnic food still there but returned to Isabela empty-handed. Barandino, children Bunny, 2, Oliver, 3, and Janice, 10, were released Dec. 10 at Upper Kapawayan, then his sick 19-year-old son Matthew, Cristina, Marvin, 14, Marjorie, 12, Mitos, 11, Marilee, 10, and the doctor's nephew Reiner Reyes were freed Sunday (Dec. 20) at Barangay Masula.

This was the third abduction since September when copra dealer Virginia Arevalo of Lamitan town was snatched by a gang who killed her husband Bebe. She was held a month, then freed after paying ransom.

Catholic missionary Augustin Fraszczak, an American, seized Oct. 21 by five armed men in Batanga Tablas, Tuburan, was held

for P5 million ransom. Brig. Gen. Guillermo Ruiz got word that the missionary was in good health. He was spotted riding a horse in administering medical services to people in the hinterlands as was his wont.

PEACE TALKS

Haydee Yorac's National Unification Commission is engaged in what could be a historical event or a fiasco depending on the outcome of her parleys with the left, right and in between elements. Following a meeting with Yorac, Brig. Gen. Jose Ma. Zumel, a confirmed Marcos loyalist, surfaced after six years in hiding. Ranking rebel officers were conditionally released to contact fugitive Col. Gregorio Honasan and others to return to the AFP fold.

On the other hand, the rift among the leftists will "neither impair nor derail" the NUC efforts in negotiating "an enduring peace with justice," said President Fidel Ramos. Self-exiled communist leader Jose Ma. Sison in Utrecht (Netherlands) branded as renegades and "psy-war tools of Ramos" released prisoners Romulo Kintanar, Ricardo Reyes and Benjamin de Vera. Sison said they had no authority to represent the Communist

Party, National Democratic Front or the New People's Army in negotiations with the government.

Sison and ex-priest Luis Jalandoni held talks with Rep. Jose Yap in the Netherlands but refuse to attend negotiations in Manila. Former NDF head Satur Ocampo, Rafael Baylosis and Kintanar are holding dialogue with Yorac.

Negotiations with the secessionist Moro groups are still tentative. Yorac said the Mindanao Islamic Liberation Front has voiced its intention to talk reconciliation.

BELTRAN CONVICTED

Media was caught with surprise over Luis D. Beltran's conviction on a libel charge filed by former President Aquino with regard to an item in his column *Straight from the Shoulder* (Oct. 12, 1987, *Philippine Star*) saying Mrs. Aquino hid under her bed during the August 28 coup d'etat attempt.

Manila Judge Ramon Makasari's imposition of P2 million in moral damages for both plus P2,000 fine and six months to two years in prison for Beltran and his publisher, Maximo Soliven, was considered disproportionate to the crime. Beltran's lawyer elevated the decision to the Court of Appeals.

(To be concluded)

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 and ₱510 million for the first nine months of 1992.

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 only six years of operation, from July 1986 to September 30, 1992, the new PAGCOR has already remitted a total of ₱16.3 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 National Treasury, the Bureau of Internal Revenue, the Social Fund of the President, Cities hosting the casinos, the Philippine Sports Commission, and the National Commission for Culture and Arts. 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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Silence surrounds high AIDS cases among young women

By ESTRELLA MIRANDA-MANIKUIS

IN THE battle against AIDS, there is an "unheard scream" that must now break into the global consciousness and get the urgently needed response.

The scream is that of girls and young women who, according to Dr. Elizabeth Reid of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), are "excessively vulnerable" to AIDS infection.

She says that, so far, strategies to combat AIDS have been "male-centred." These strategies ignore the fact that "in most of the Third World, there are as many, or more, infected women as there are infected men," she points out.

Estimates place the number of infected women at 3.5 million, with the majority of them between 15 and 35 years old. To these are daily added 3,000 infections and 500 deaths among women, says Dr. Reid, director of the UNDP's programme on AIDS and development.

She makes two other important observations. Firstly, women are becoming infected at a significantly younger age than men, or five to 10 years earlier on the average.

Secondly, younger women — in their teens or early 20s — are becoming infected more than women in other age groups. An exception are post-menopausal women, who also show a particular vulnerability to HIV, the virus which causes AIDS.

As early as 1982 or the year the AIDS epidemic surfaced, a woman was already among those diagnosed as having AIDS. By 1984, AIDS was diagnosed in virtually as many women as men by a joint US-Belgian mission to Zaire.

Yet "the characterisation of the epidemic by gender (male) and sexual orientation (homosexual) remain dominant," says Dr. Reid.

Women continued to be part of the picture — but were largely unseen or ignored — in two critical studies whose results were made known in 1986. The report from the University Teaching Hospital in Lusaka, Zambia, showed one in 10 ante-natal clinic patients to be infected with the HIV virus. Among the hospital patients, found infected were one in three men aged 30 to 35, and one in four women aged 20 to 25.

The other study, on the first 500 cases of AIDS diagnosed in Mama Yemo Hospital in Kinshasha, Zaire, also showed that there were as many female cases as male, that women AIDS patients were on average 10 years younger than the men, and that AIDS incidence peaked sharply in younger women or those aged 20 to 29 years old.

Dr. Reid notes that later data continued to show the same pattern of HIV infection or AIDS being high in young women — whether in places where the epidemic is just emerging as in Thailand and Myanmar, or is already established as in Uganda, and in the industrialised world like Europe.

"These data were deeply disturbing yet they did not elicit a particular concern about women and HIV at the international level nor did they challenge and change the dominant discourse on the epidemic and thus the responses," says Dr. Reid.

The cause of high infection rates in young women must be determined, she stresses. According to her, current literature names the following factors as contributing to the spread of AIDS in both women and men: the incidence of sexually transmitted infections (STIs), frequency of intercourse, sexual practices and age differences in sexual relationships. Factors particular to women are nutritional status, socio-economic status and the presence of lesions, inflammation and scarification in the female genital tract.

However, these factors do not fully explain the high rates of infection in young women, Dr. Reid says. For example, young women have become infected with HIV even with the first intercourse, and even if they do not indulge in sex.

"Similarly, sexual practices which cause lesions or inflammations of the genital tract are not usually practised by young women. These are more prevalent after the birth of the first child," says Dr. Reid.

Other factors must be promptly looked into, if new strategies to protect young women — and future generations — are to be devised, she urges.

One possible factor is "physiological vulnerability," namely that the genital tract in young women may be "less efficient as a barrier to virus penetration than that of older women. Dr. Reid notes that the thickening of the tract's mucous membrane, which starts at menarche (onset of menstruation), often is not completed until late teens or early 20s. The membrane similarly thins with age, so that the genital tract wall in young women and in post-menopausal women are less efficient barriers than those in more mature, pre-menopausal women.

Also to be considered is mucus production. Mucus, Dr. Reid explains, acts both as a barrier to separate semen and other material



LOYALTY: President Ramos receives a pledge of loyalty from Romualdo Maranan, Manila Councillor and national president of the Federation of Jeepney Operators and Drivers Association of the Philippines (FEJODAP), during a courtesy call in Malacañang.

Vegetarian diet for better nutrition

By ROMEO B. ABUNDO

ROME — Why not a vegetarian diet? It can ease the global problems of inequitable access to food, malnutrition, unhealthy life-styles and even environmental degradation.

This was the sales pitch used by the England-based International Vegetarian Union to promote what it considers as an inexpensive approach to malnutrition, diet-related diseases and resources misuse.

In a paper made available to participants in the just concluded International Conference on Nutrition (ICN), the Union examines the high cost of producing meat in terms of land use and other inputs that otherwise could go to vegetable growing.

"It takes from 5 to 10 kilograms of vegetables to produce 1 kg. of meat," estimates the paper written by Anne-Marie Mayer. "The inefficient conversion means that much land is given over to either grazing or growing food for animal consumption." Worse still, animal feeds are grown as cash crops in some areas where people do not have enough to eat.

Organized by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the World Health

Organization (WHO), the first global summit on nutrition drew participants, many of them health and food ministers, from over 150 countries, international development agencies and non-governmental organizations.

The conference adopted a World Declaration and a Plan of Action seeking to eliminate hunger and reduce all forms of malnutrition.

In her paper, Ms. Mayer suggested a farming system that grows native species of fruits, vegetables, nuts and pulses "in a way that works with rather than against nature."

A shift to a meatless or "vegan" diet will reduce demand by countries in the "North" for animal feeds from "Southern" countries and contribute to increased self-sufficiency and pave the way for regeneration of natural environment, contends Ms. Mayer.

The paper debunks as baseless popular belief that a balanced diet is hard to achieve without animal products.

"The vegetable kingdom provides a wide variety of food which supply all the vitamins, minerals, proteins, carbohydrates and fats necessary for

health," points out the paper.

It notes that under- or malnutrition results from poor diets in countries of the South. In the North, poor quality and unbalanced consumption of food cause nutrition-related diseases.

The paper cites proper nutrition guidelines issued by the U.K.'s Department of Health and Social Security and the London Health Education Council which recommended more fruits and vegetables and less saturated fat, salt and sugar in the diet.

"A healthy vegetarian diet achieves these guidelines simply by removing the main sources of the problem: animal fats and refined/processed foods," says Ms. Mayer.

A vegetarian diet lessens the risks of such western diseases as hypertension, obesity, diabetes, heart ailments and certain cancers, adds Ms. Mayer. By avoiding meat, the risks of food poisoning are also reduced.

All told, diets relying on meat consumption "perpetuate the world problems due to the high costs of animal production, environmental impact of animal farming and effects on health," concludes the paper.

The Plan of Action endorsed by the conference calls on governments and the private sector to promote health life-styles and diets lower in energy and fat contents.

"The health dividends from a diet more in tune with human biology should generate widespread public support, suggest conference documents. "People should be educated on how to avoid unnecessary risks by adopting healthier diets and life-styles."

The conference noted that chronic diet-related diseases have become a major public health problem worldwide. Not only are these prevalent in rich, industrialized countries but are now felt even in the poorest nations. Main reason for this is the erosion of traditional diet patterns due to rapid urbanization and other social changes.

Among others, the Plan of Action urges governments and the private sector to work out comprehensive policies for improved nutrition and encourages home gardens, food production and consumption patterns that lend well to nutritional well-being. (DEPTHnews)

from the cervical walls, and a lubricant to protect the vagina from abrasion during intercourse, while flushing foreign material from the vagina and cervix. The mucus also has an immune function in that it "contains cells of a separate immune system (which) activates the immune responses of the cells in the vaginal and cervical surfaces."

Less mucus therefore means less protection. This can be the case with young women whose mucus secretion cycle has not fully developed, and among post-menopausal women.

Situational factors are just as important. For example, when a (Page 10, please)

Machine lack hampers farm growth

BY MANUEL TAMAYO

LOS BAÑOS, LAGUNA
Absence of a potent machine industry for farming, forestry and cottage manufacturing has slowed down countryside development to the point of stunting livelihood and employment growth.

This grey picture of rural development emerged from a report on agricultural mechanization by W.F. David, dean of the College of Agro-Industrial Technology, University of the Philippines.

Machines are the engines of progress, and lack of these could spell disaster in the countryside, said the report.

David cited the many benefits accruing from mechanized operations.

For instance, machines speed up work on the farms and in folk industries. Mechanization also allows easy shifting of crop rotation and thus

boost the productivity of land.

Unfortunately, many farmers do not have access to tractors, harrows, power tillers, harvesters and threshers, David lamented, although these machines are needed to maximize farm yields. Power tillers, for instance, are needed to prepare the land as soon as the rains come. Late planters stand to lose their investments if a drought should occur before the grains are ready for harvest.

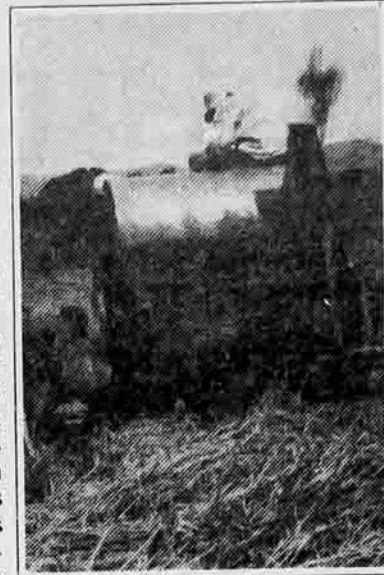
David noted that lack of power tillers had prevented thousands of farmers from planting early and raising crops that were to be ready for harvest before the crippling 1991 drought affected all the regions up to summer of the following year.

The drought hit the upland farms hardest, particularly growers in Mindanao, where

the T'boli, B'laan, Mangbo and other tribes suffered massive crop failure that caused deaths, diseases and hunger.

Farmers also suffer big losses from lack of threshers that can save tons of grains from deteriorating quickly, according to David.

Unthreshed palay left in the fields especially during rainy



FARM MECHANIZATION: Stunted.

Francisco's "Hampasan" showing peasants banging rice

days has poor milling recovery.

A Bolog Francisco mural depicting peasants stepping on newly-harvested palay spread on a mat in the ricefield reflects the ancient way of threshing still practised on almost all the farms.

plants against a wooden bar is another threshing method practised since time immemorial. This underscores the need for mechanized implements rural folks can afford. Hampasan badly hurts the farmers' investments since a high percentage of the palay is lost.

Peasants wrestle with the problem of drying palay every harvest time. The headache persists as farmers can turn only to sun-drying method. Sun-drying, however, is useless to wet harvests raised during rainy season, noted the study.

Again, this post-harvest setback results in huge losses. Portable mini-mechanical dryers can be the solution to the nagging problem, said David. The dryer can be operated as communal facility like the threshers maintained by farmers in certain areas.

A number of the old

Samahang Nayan cooperatives had managed to acquire threshers through loans when interest rate was six per cent or lower at the Samahang Nayan Support Project (SNSP) and Rural Banks.

Corn farmers need shellers that can spur food processing in the rural areas. Shelling machine is vital to folk industries in the processing of corn into syrup, starch, flavoring, ingredients for Halo Halo, and other consumer goods. But few farmers have access to such facility.

Mini-rice mill is rare in farmers' communities far from towns, including those with cooperatives due to the knotty machinery market and credit facility.

Grass-root milling can initiate peasant farmers in the so-called agri-business and enhance agro-industrial development. (DEPTHnews)

New pest control tech ups farmers income

By RODOLFO FERNANDEZ

LA TRINIDAD, BENGUET — Thousands of laboratory-reared insects are being released on farms in the northern Luzon highlands to fight destructive ones that are attacking vegetable crops.

During the September-October period, 11,200 *Diadegma semiclausum* had been released in farmers' fields in the upland towns of Atok (4,000 in three sites), Bauko (3,400 in two sites), Bontoc (2,000 in one site), Mangkayan (1,100) and Kabayan (700).

Release of the parasitoids or natural enemies of the "bad guys" in the insect world was undertaken by the Department of Agriculture-Highland Agricultural Development Project (DA-HADP).

The parasitoids were provided by Benguet State University (BSU) based in this capital town and the Los Baños-based Philippine Council for Agriculture, Forestry and Natural Resources Research and Development (PCARRD).

Twenty-three releases in as many sites have also been scheduled for the November-December period.

Dispersal of the friendly insects is among the activities being undertaken under a project entitled "Field Releases of Parasitoids of Diamondback Moths in the Highlands and

Lowlands."

Supported by the Asian Development Bank (ADB) through the Taiwan-based Asian Vegetable Research and Development Center (AVRDC), the project is being implemented by BSU and UPLB.

Coordinator is Dr. Jocelyn Eusebio, PCARRD supervising senior research specialist. The BSU and UPLB teams are led by Prof. Eulogio Cardona, Jr. and Dr. Belen M. Rejesus, respectively.

Other agencies involved are the Department of Agriculture-Cordillera Autonomous Region (DA-CAR), National Crop Protection Center (NCPC), Bureau of Plant Industry (BPI), and Agricultural Training Institute-National Training Center (ATI-NTC).

Primary target of the project is the diamondback moth, the most serious problem insect of the crucifer family of vegetables, such as cabbage, pechay, cauliflower, mustard, broccoli and radish.

The diamondback moth, so named because of a series of diamond-shaped figures on its back, hogged the headlines months back when it was reported that farmers in the highlands of northern Luzon were using cyanide to control it.

The project involves an

integrated pest management (IPM) approach to control the DBM using a select group of insects such as *Diadegma semiclausum* and *Cotesia plutellae*, which are suited for release in the highlands and lowlands, respectively.

These parasitoids have been known to regulate pest population by laying their eggs within the larva of the diamondback moth and undergoing the various stages of its life cycle within the insect pest until it emerges as an adult parasitoid, ready to parasitize other DBM larva.

These biocontrol agents immobilize and subsequently kill the moth.

D. semiclausum and *C. plutellae* have also been known to work well with a microbial insecticide, *Bacillus thuringiensis* var *kurstaki*, which is toxic to diamondback moth, but is safe to nontarget organisms.

Through the project, mass rearing facilities were established at BSU and UPLB to support the intensive mass production of these parasitoids, which were initially provided by AVRDC. The parasitoids are then given free to vegetable farmers interested in availing themselves of the technology, for sustained release in various crucifer-growing areas infested with the

DBM in such provinces as Benguet, Mt. Province, Batangas and Laguna.

Training activities for farmer cooperators and implementors are under way through the support of the provincial government of Benguet, DA-CAR, NTC, Fertilizer and Pesticide Authority (FPA), and local government units.

The field releases aim to

increase and establish the population of the parasitoids to a level that could neutralize the diamondback moth and minimize the application of chemical insecticides.

Initial studies on the economics of the technology yielded an added 35 per cent return on investment (ROI) in the highlands and 357 per cent added ROI in the lowlands

compared with the traditional control practices employed by farmers. Added returns are expected once the population of parasitoids has been established.

However, these gains depend on the farmers' willingness to use selective chemical insecticides that are not fatal to these natural enemies. (DEPTHnews)

Silences ...

(From page 9)

woman is raped or otherwise forced into sex, mucus production is inhibited and the vaginal muscles are tensed, "increasing the likelihood of genital trauma." When a young girl has no control over the occasions on which she may be sexually "used," such as when the partner is a much older man, it is also likely that intercourse may be frequent.

In areas where proper health services are lacking, infections and lesions may go untreated. "Malnutrition not only inhibits the production of mucus but also slows the healing process and depresses the immune system. Cultural norms may favour early pregnancy, discourage the use of condoms or facilitate intercourse with older men who are more likely to be infected," says Dr. Reid.

Action agendas, she says, must be adopted that would

"challenge the silence around the HIV infection of young women," and address the factors — direct and indirect — that contribute to HIV infection.

Of utmost urgency and importance would be a reorienting of the research agenda, to focus on establishing the physiological basis of HIV susceptibility in women and developing protective programmes.

Families and schools must become "sanctuaries" from infection. Practices that allow or encourage women's sexual bondage and early initiation into sexual relationships — such as incest, early marriage and dowry — must be eliminated. Students must be protected from sexual abuse, and girls should be assisted in getting an education so they would not have to consent to sex to pay for their schooling.

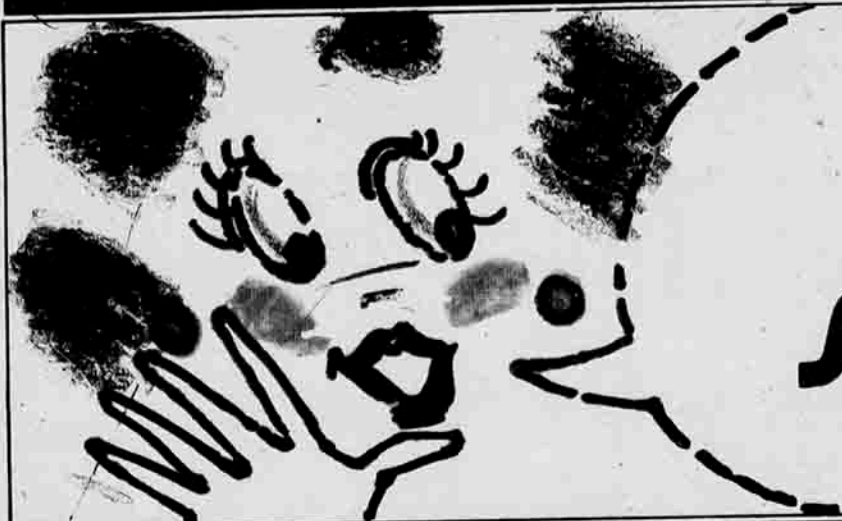
The full force of the law must be brought down on those who expose young women to HIV infection, says Dr. Reid.

Moreover, "spaces must be

created within which young girls can be free from HIV infection" and enjoy their youth in preparation for adulthood. There should also be havens where young people of both sexes can interact without being pressured into behavior that increase their vulnerability to infection.

Dr. Reid urges community organising and action "to change accepted patterns of male behaviour and expected patterns of female behaviour." Similarly, she says, the ability of young women to be in control of their situations and relationships should be enhanced through appropriate programmes and mechanisms.

Programmes to free women from physical, sexual, verbal, psychological and other forms of violence also need support. Especially to be resisted is child abuse, which lowers the victim's self-esteem and makes women prone to further abuse even into adulthood. (Depthnews Asia)



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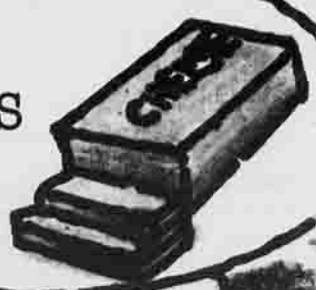


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WHO paints grim health picture

GENEVA For many countries, decades of development efforts seem like a long-running exercise in futility.

The Rome-based International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) reports that the number of the rural poor in developing countries has jumped 40 per cent over the past 20 years.

About a billion people, almost a fifth of the world's total population, still live below the poverty line despite incessant efforts to reduce their number. Most of the rural poor — 633 million — live in Asia.

Poverty, of course, is more than just a physical lack of certain things.

"We also have to remember the human suffering that these statistics reflect, that a half billion people do not get enough to eat daily, and that 15 to 20 million of them die yearly from starvation and diseases made worse by malnutrition," says Idriss Jazairy, IFAD president.

Dr. Hiroshi Nakajima, director-general of the World Health Organisation (WHO), is even more specific. "In developing countries, only two out of every five people have easy access to safe water and one out of every four to proper sanitation. Since 1945, some 400 million people have died from neglect — victims of starvation and disease," he says.

In developing countries in general, some 500,000 women die each year from causes linked with pregnancy and childbirth. Measles, a common childhood disease, kills one child every five seconds for lack of immunisation.

Each year, some five million children aged five years or younger die from diarrhea while malaria claims the lives of about a million people, most of them children. Seven million children suffer each year from vitamin A deficiency with 500,000 going blind and 300,000 dying.

As grim as these figures already are, the situation gets even more depressing when statistics relating to the poorest of the world's poor are taken into account.

WHO reports that in the least developed countries:

- * One baby in four has low birth weight.
- * Only one child in seven can hope for basic immunisation.
- * One child in eight dies before reaching its first birthday.
- * One child in five does not reach the age of five.
- * Only one person in ten has access to safe drinking water.

Among countries in greatest need, the average life expectancy is less than 50 years, the infant mortality rate is in many cases more than 100 per 1,000 live births, population growth is more than 2.7 per cent per annum and a large proportion of the population, particularly women, is illiterate. Access to health services is limited.

WHO officials say that statistics recorded day after day make it inconceivable — despite some definite improvements — that the objective of Health for All by the year 2000 will be achieved.

The less-than-rosy health picture in the developing world has become a major concern of WHO for the past few years as it has been acknowledged that health is not merely a goal of development but, in fact, a vital factor in achieving development. Human resource is an important component of any development effort and only a healthy population can ensure that that resource is utilised to the fullest.

Dr. Nakajima has called on the health sector "to extricate itself from a situation of perpetual isolation and (to) put health in its rightful place as a driving force in economic and social development."

In many developing countries, according to WHO officials, the health systems display weaknesses and even inadequacies. A significant section of the population does not have permanent access to health care, and a large proportion of the health resources is concentrated in the major cities.

Moreover, these resources are often spent on advanced technologies which serve only a minority of the population, while primary health care for the majority is neglected. There are shortcomings in the way the health services cooperate with other social and economic sectors.

Dr. Nakajima, in a speech during an international conference in Geneva early this year, stressed the need to reverse what he called the growing inequities in health status and access to health care evident both between and within countries.

The irony is that solutions already exist and development workers are eager to do the job. "Technically, we know what to do. We know how to do it. What we do not know yet now is how to reorder financial and human resources for health, directing them to activities which will have most impact on the health of entire populations, but especially on the health of the most needy," Dr. Nakajima said.

The WHO director-general said economic area is a tool which

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IN METRO MANILA

Hopes for full employment by year 2000 look dim

By BERNABE PAGUIO

FULL EMPLOYMENT by the year 2000?
A tall order, indeed, but that is one of the primary objectives of the International Development Strategy (IDS) on which the world community is pinning its hopes to provide gainful employment to its legions of jobless people.

The strategy, formulated a decade ago, calls for a coordinated approach to the world's economic and social problems. It has been approved by the United Nations General Assembly.

The loftiness of the target is reflected by the big number of people who were either unemployed or underemployed worldwide at that time. Their numbers were still rising as the army of new jobseekers and youths aged 15 to 25 was growing by 2.5 per cent every year, according to the International Labor Organization (ILO).

To insure full employment by the end of this century, ILO said over one billion jobs must be created. Of these jobs, some 880 million will have to be generated in developing countries which "must, somehow, manage to create more than 40 million jobs annually."

The strategy calls for "intensive efforts" to provide gainful employment especially for new jobseekers. Noting that the lack of trained and quali-

fied staff inhibits economic development, IDS urges creation of enough financial and technical resources to make most countries more self-sufficient in manpower development.

IDS takes account of most ILO concerns on winning better deals for workers, women and children, as well as improving working conditions and vocational training. But ILO officials were reportedly "cautious," pointing out that persistent failure to agree on how to promote international economic cooperation may rob the strategy of its practical effectiveness.

Actually, IDS is a blueprint for a global effort to make the world economy function as a viable unit. While noting economic troubles that plague industrialized countries, it seeks to promote Third World prosperity and a new international economic order.

The goals are not too modest. Developing countries as a whole should score a seven per cent average yearly growth rate

of gross domestic product (GDP).

Target of the previous strategy was six per cent. Actually achieved was a rate of 5.5 per cent, although the poorest countries managed an average of only 3.2 per cent.

Under the new strategy, industrialized countries are asked to raise the official development assistance from the yearly average of 0.34 per cent of GNP to 0.7 per cent by 1985 and one per cent by 1990.

The previous strategy set a yearly target of 0.7 per cent by 1980. IDS sets basic guidelines for the UN system's approach to international development problems for the following decade. It provides yardsticks for assessing the results of global economic cooperation.

But as the year 2000 approaches, hopes for full employment all over the world appear dim. (DEPTHnews)



YEAH!: President Ramos helps a putt with a little body english and then raises his arms in celebration after converting during the recent Fil-Am Golf tournament at the Camp John Hay course in Baguio City. (Malacañang Photo)