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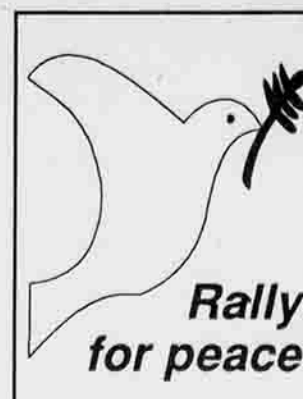
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WE Forum

TO SEEK AND LIVE THE TRUTH AND SHARE A VISION



VOL. 19 ♦ NO. 47

MARCH 18-24, 1996

P4 IN METRO MANILA



TAIWANESE SOLDIERS: On alert.



CHAMP: President Ramos holds aloft the gloves used by Luisito Espinosa, who displays the championship belt he won when he successfully defended his World Boxing Council Featherweight title in Guadalajara, Mexico, recently, during Espinosa's courtesy call on the President at Malacañang last week. With them are members of the Espinosa family. (Malacañang Photo)

CHINA WAR GAMES

FEARS SWEEP OVER TAIWAN

If China has been spoiling for a fight, it's got one now with the United States Navy. China made no bones about firing three guided M-9 missiles patterned after the Russian-made Scud into the sea off vital Taiwan's Keelung and Kaohsiung ports to intimidate Taiwan voters to stay off the March 23 presidential election in which President Lee Teng-hui, an advocate for the island's independence, is favored to be reelected.

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SHOWDOWN

AT TAIWAN STRAIT

By ERIC. S. GIRON

IF China has been spoiling for a fight, it's got one now with the United States Navy. Chian made no bones about firing three guided M-9 missiles patterned after the Russian-made Scud into the sea off vital Taiwan's Keelung and Kaohsiung ports to intimidate Taiwan voters to stay off the March 23 presidential election in which President Lee Teng-hui, an advocate for the island's independence, is favored to be reelected.

President Lee, who enraged Beijing with a private US visit last June, defied the "force and threats" of China's war games which he said "will not obstruct our pursuit of democracy, freedom and dignity."

Fears were expressed that the missiles could fall off target and hit Taiwan territory. US State Sec. Warren M. Christopher warned China against the unnecessarily risky and reckless military exercises in the Taiwan strait. "If there are accidents in the military exercises," US security adviser Anthony Lake said "China will be held accountable." And if Taiwan is attacked, "there will be grave consequences."

The US administration said it has no evidence that the exercises will lead to conflict nor reason to doubt China's assurance the military exercises will not be used as a cover for invading Taiwan, "a self-governing island that China considers to be its province."

Taiwan and China have had separate governments ever since the Communists ran Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek's Nationalist government off the mainland at the end of the civil war in 1949. Chiang put up the Republic of China with a legislative yuan in Taipei, the Taiwan capital. The US Navy based in Taiwan backed up Chiang.

Pentagon officials on March 9 ordered the USS Independence carrying F-14 fighter jets and anti-submarine patrol aircraft, and three of its battleships to move within 100 miles of the Taiwan Strait. Christopher said the forces will be in a position "to be helpful if need be."

Before this, President

Ziang Zemin pledged before the National People's Congress in Beijing that China would not lift its campaign to prevent an independent Taiwan even for a single day. Beijing warned it is not playing games and tougher military action will ensue.

The nuclear-powered USS Nimitz with five or six accompanying ships will arrive from the Persian Gulf a few days before the March 23 Taiwan polls.

Foreign Minister Qian Qichen accused "foreign forces" of encouraging Taiwan which is "a part of China and not a protectorate of the United States" to rebuff Beijing's appeals for reunification. The Manchus subjugated the island in 1683 and made it a province of China in 1886. At the end of the Sino-Japanese War in 1895, then Formosa island and 64 Pescador (Penghu) isles were ceded to Japan which renamed the island Taiwan.

Taiwan was restored to China at the end of World War II in 1945. The Communist government on the mainland and the Nationalist government in Taiwan bred two Chinas until the United Nations finally recognized the existence of over one billion Chinese on the mainland as China.

RP CONCERN

The Philippines' concern is the proximity of the Taiwan Strait to Northern Luzon and the 13,000 Filipino workers in Taiwan. China of late has been making incursions with its warships into the Philippines' exclusive economic zone in the Spratlys archipelago west of Palawan. The Chinese put up structures on Mischief Reef which they

said were shelter for Chinese fishermen.

But Filipino fishermen and Palawan residents ferrying boatloads of construction materials to Pagasas, the biggest of seven Philippine-staked isles, have been driven back by the Chinese sailors.

Ships with Chinese markings believed to be pirates, have been encountered by PN patrol craft off Subic in Zambales. They are suspected to be engaged in smuggling. With the current tension in the Taiwan Strait, the surreptitious entry of Chinese vessels in Philippine waters acquire a new significance. The Philippines is in no position to engage in hostilities.

Armed Forces Chief Arturo Enrile belied rumors that Taiwan had asked the Philippines the use of Subic Bay and Clark Airbase for its ships and aircraft. This would directly involve the Philippines

in taking sides against China.

"I don't think we ought to take sides" said Senate President Neptali Gonzales because "it is uncomfortably close to us." Sen. Orlando Mercado was for condemning China's actions, for what he called real threats like surface to surface tests off Taiwan and its beefing up of structures at Mischief Reef. The Philippines-United States mutual defense treaty was cited as binding both countries in case of a shooting war. In view of this, senators support a call to President Ramos to convene the National Security Council.

REACTIONS

After China's test-firing Friday, Taiwanese stocked rice and bought US dollars to protect their savings until the banks ran out. China's official media kept up the psychological pressure.

A United Daily News poll

in Taipei showed 17 percent of 1,223 respondents voted for independence from China, 16 percent were for eventual reunification, 46 percent wanted to maintain Taiwan's current status.

In the 1950s and 1960s, Quemoy isle, which is just two kilometers off China's coast, and Matsu were constantly bombarded although Beijing did not decide to invade them. In 1994, Quemoy's coastal guns "accidentally" fired a barrage that hit the outskirts of Xiamen, the second city of Fujian.

The Chinese Armed Forces have reportedly drafted plans to invade Quemoy, where 55,000 Taiwanese troops are deployed, and Matsu, right in front of Fuzhou, capital of Fujian, where 150,000 Chinese troops and 300 fighter planes are scheduled to conduct military maneuvers to intimidate Taiwan.

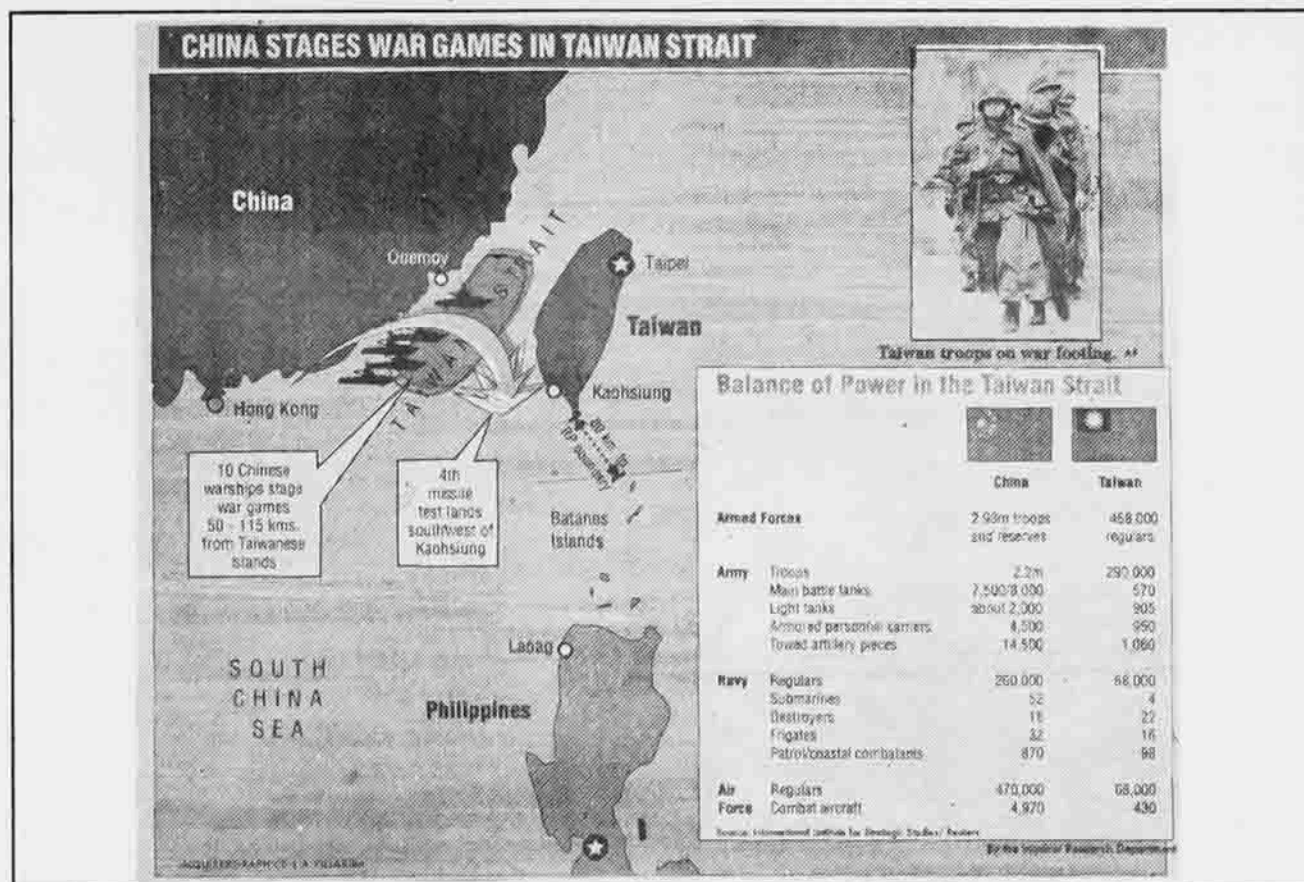
All soldiers on holiday

from Quemoy were recalled to man their posts. Troops began digging trenches along roadsides, and trimmed trees for better.

Taiwanese who had been stoic in the face of China's saber-rattling began showing signs of anxiety. Many wanted to leave Taiwan. The joint editorial published by China's mouthpiece warning Taiwan its drive to boost its international profile "will bring grave disaster to the 21 million Taiwan compatriots" indicated the Communist Party and the military had resolved differences on how to threaten Taiwan into compliance.

US defense and military officials said China's antiquated 2.5 million military force doesn't have the sealift and airlift to support an invasion. Taiwan's 367,000 troops have an array of high-tech weapons including US-built F-16 fighter planes superior to the Beijing arsenal.

(Next page, please)



GRAPHICS FROM THE DAILY INQUIRER.

Hopes that both the United States and China would defuse the tension were dashed when China on March 12 deployed ships and warplanes southwest of Taiwan and began eight days of war games. China has never renounced force to reunify what it calls its renegade province Taiwan with the mainland. It is convinced that President Lee Teng-hui wants to make the island independent.

Although retired Marine Lt. Gen. Bernard Trainor sees China and Taiwan eventually controlling the situation and that the "US military commanders don't have much of an appetite for a clash," political analyst Wei Yung wrote in Taiwan's *United Daily News* "Washington would never sit idly by as communist China bullied Taiwan."

Vice Chairman Chiao Jen-ho of the Straits Exchange Foundation was quoted by the Central News Agency: "The mainland's recent actions have pushed the goal of reunification farther and farther away."

MAD BOMBERS

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of DOMINGA LUMANDAS-NOFUENTE who died on June 25, 1993 has been extrajudicially settled by her heirs as per Doc. No. 16; Page No. 4; Book No. IX of Notary Public Ferdinand M. de Leon of Quezon City.

WE FORUM
March 18, 25 & April 1, 1996

AGAIN

Those pesky mad bombers are at it again, exploding grenades in two Catholic churches in Zamboanga City and popping a grenade in a Basilan church and the public market.

Whether it is in retaliation to the killing of 14 Abu Sayyaf men and the wounding of 13 others by Marine raiders at their Patikul camp in Sulu Feb. 20 or simply terroristic acts to scare the daylight out of the Mindanao people, the message is loud and clear.

Two motorcycle riders lobbed a hand grenade before 5 a.m. into St. Joseph Church on Nuñez street, Zamboanga City, near the house of Rep. Ma. Clara Lobregat who, police say, is the target of Sulu assassins. Lobregat has been vocal against making her city the seat of a proposed expanded Autonomous Region for Muslim Mindanao.

Then two homemade bombs exploded at the Catholic Church run by Claretian Missionary Fathers on San Jose Road, two kilometers from the city's downtown. Some 12 persons were reported wounded in the two churches.

A grenade was hurled inside the same church at 6:30 a.m. which did not explode. But it stampeded the churchgoers who rushed to the exits, leaving their footwear and personal things behind. At least ten persons were hurt.

The two bombs which exploded hit former Army man Rolando Alba and newspaper photographer Luzvi-mindo Enri-

quez with shrapnel.

A few hours after the Zamboanga bombings, a grenade was exploded outside the Roman Catholic Church and another was tossed at the public market of Basilan. Police said the first grenade intended to explode inside of the church in Isabela town fell short and burst instead on the patio. It took place late Sunday when no one was in the church.

A man wearing a black jacket on foot hurled a grenade at the public market's meat section Monday (March 11). It hit a vendor on the nape but failed to explode. However, it caused pandemonium and forced several merchants to close shop for the day. An explosives and ordinance unit detonated the pineapple-type grenade.

The Ulama Council in Western Mindanao condemned the "un-Islamic and barbaric" bombing acts. Grand Mufti Ustadz Abdugari Yusop, the Council head, said these "terroristic acts were aimed to destroy the good relationship between the Muslims and Christians in the region." He said a third force could be behind the bombings aimed to drive a wedge between the two religions in the city.

Nur Misuari called up Executive Sec. Ruben Torres at Malacañang to disclaim that his Moro National Liberation Front had anything to do with the bombings. He expressed doubt if the Moro Islamic Liberation Front could have done it. How can he dismiss offhand MNLF or MILF participation without

any investigation at all?

The MNLF and the MILF wash their hands of bombings and raids which are usually pinned on the Abu Sayyaf. But who are the Abu Sayyaf who are at times alluded to as the "Lost Command"? The Abu Sayyaf are also former members of either secessionist group who now consider themselves "fundamentalists" with more radical devotion to their objectives.

SUPPLIES MESS

Health Department employees condemned Sec. Hilarion Ramiro for "transforming a respected and dynamic department" into a "Den of Harlots" through corruption and incompetence.

Sen. Juan Flavio, who elevated the Health Department during his incumbency as secretary, was succeeded by Ramiro. Flavio initiated the inquiry into the procurement of P80 million worth of hepatitis B vaccines and P9.9 million medical kits. The employees accused Ramiro of allocating P20 million to the Hilarion Ramiro Hospital in Misamis City which is not under DOH supervision.

Sen. Nikki Coseteng asked Ramiro, Undersecretaries Manuel Roxas and Teresita de la Cruz and consultant Antonio San Juan to take a leave of absence to prevent suspicion that they may use their office to whitewash the probe from overpricing medical supplies to rigging multimillion-peso contracts.

Sen. Freddie Webb said it would be premature for Ramiro et al to take a leave of absence now. But if the hearing proves certain anomalies transpired, then Ramiro should take a leave.

Flavio said it would be ideal if Ramiro took a leave of absence now. But he admitted a public official accused of graft can be suspended preventively by the Ombudsman for three months when a formal criminal case is filed with the Sandigan-bayan.

When a sales agent of a multinational drug company was about to ink a contract with the Health Department, a newspaper report said Ramiro subtly suggested a brand-new car in exchange for the deal. Ramiro did not deny the story but said his request was only "a joke."

Coseteng said "a secretary has no excuse to joke about anything immoral or illegal like bribery anytime."

The newspaper article questioned Ramiro's clearing Lloyd Laboratories which had been accused of manufacturing fake drugs. Ramiro said he signed the clearance "by accident." Yet he admitted seeing the Lloyd public relations officer everyday. Coseteng said if Ramiro erred in signing the clearance, why did he "personally inaugurate the new manufacturing plant of Lloyd after only several weeks?"

Executive Sec. Ruben Torres said Malacañan will not conduct its own investigation of Ramiro because Cabinet secretaries enjoy the full confidence of President Ramos. He was confident Ramiro would be able to explain his side and eventually clear himself of the charges.

Another Ramos recommendation, Eduardo Pilapil, has been bypassed by the Commission on Appointments as tourism secretary because of complaints of his statement of

assets and liabilities with the Ombudsman and alleged estafa and tax evasion with the Presidential Commission Against Graft and Corruption.

REVAMP GOES PHFFT

All that brouhaha about a Cabinet revamp fizzled out into a letdown. President Ramos displayed his weakness in choosing replacements from what Sen. Blas Ople called a "narrow bench" of the military and police, his Pangasinan province-mates and Lakas-NUCD Party members.

Lakas Party stalwart Rep. Robert Barbers (Surigao del Norte) was named interior and local governments secretary in lieu of Rafael Alunan III and Philippine Estates Authority Administrator Amadeo Lagdameo to replace Transportation and Communications Sec. Jesus Garcia. DILG Undersecretary Aguirre replaced Undersecretary Leonora de Jesus in the Presidential Management Staff.

House colleagues welcomed Barbers' appointment but Rep. Jose Zubiri colored it political. He sized up Barbers as an advance party to Speaker Jose de Venecia's "long march to the presidency."

Barbers got inferiority complex when he saw a crowd of more than 1,000 mayors gathered in Cagayan de Oro City give Rafael Alunan prolonged applause. Alunan will attend the fourth national peace and order summit on April 12 before he quits April 26 instead of June 30 so he can enroll at the Harvard School of Government.

Barbers, a former Western Police District colonel, said he will concentrate on busting crime syndicates.

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES REGIONAL TRIAL COURT OF MANILA NATIONAL CAPITAL JUDICIAL REGION BRANCH 13

EVER EMPORIUM INC.,

Plaintiff,

CIVIL CASE NO. 93-64007

- versus -
YOLANDA DE GUIA, ET AL.,

Defendants.

X ----- X

NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE

WHEREAS, by virtue of the Writ of Execution Foreclosing Mortgage issued by the HON. MARIO GUARINA III, Judge of this Court, on February 15, 1996, in the above-entitled case, the dispositive portion of which is as follows:

NOW, THEREFORE, you are directed to sell at public auction, in accordance with law, the described property, to wit:

TRANSFER CERTIFICATE OF TITLE NO. 180760

"A parcel of land (Lot 2-C-4 of the subdivision plan (LRC) Psd-335141, approved as non-subdivision project, being a portion of Lot 2-C, (LRC) Psd-6527, L.R.C. Cad. Record No. Cad 373), situated in the Dist. of Tondo, City of Manila, Island of Luzon. Bounded on the NE., points 11 to 1, by Esquerre St. (5.00 m. wide); on the SE., points 1 to 2, by Lot 2-C-5; on the SW. & NW., points 2 to 5, by Lot 2-C-6; on the SW., points 5 to 6, by Lot 2-C-7; on the SW. and NW., points 6 to 9, by Lot 2-C-6; and on the NW., points 9 to 10, by Lot 2-C-10 (right of way) and points 10 to 11 by Lot 2-C-9 (Right of Way); all of the subdivision plan. Containing an area of THREE HUNDRED SIXTY TWO SQUARE METERS AND EIGHTY FOUR SQUARE DECIMETERS (362.84), MORE OR LESS and that the proceeds of the said sale you cause to be made the sum of P486,000.02, Philippine Currency, together with interest at 12% per annum from August 9, 1990 until paid, plus 25% of the aforesaid principal sum as and for attorney's fees; and costs, together with your lawful fees and to make a return of your proceedings with this writ within sixty (60) days from receipt hereof.

NOW, THEREFORE, by virtue of the said Writ of Execution Foreclosing Mortgage and in accordance with Sec. 3, Rule 68 in relation to Section 18, Rule 39 of the New Rules of Court in the Philippines, the undersigned Sheriff hereby gives notice to all interested parties and announces to the public in general that on April 10, 1996 at 10:00 o'clock in the morning or soon thereafter, at the South main entrance of the City Hall of Manila, fronting Philippine Normal University, he will sell at public auction to the highest bidder for CASH and in Philippine Currency, the above-described mortgaged real estate property together with all the improvements existing thereon in order to satisfy the said Writ of Execution Foreclosing Mortgage.

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

Manila, Philippines, March 8, 1996.

(Sgd.) WILLIAM A. BERGAÑO
Sheriff IV
RTC, Branch 13, Manila

WE FORUM
March 18 & 25, 1996

Republic of the Philippines National Capital Judicial Region REGIONAL TRIAL COURT OF VALENZUELA, METRO MANILA

OFFICE OF THE CLERK OF COURT AND EX-OFFICIO SHERIFF

EQUITABLE BANKING CORPORATION,
Mortgagee/s.

- versus -
SPS. ALONZO S. CALILUNG
AND CORAZON C. CALILUNG,
Mortgagor/s.

X ----- X

EXTRAJUDICIAL FORECLOSURE
OF REAL ESTATE MORTGAGE
UNDER ACT 3135 AS AMENDED
BY ACT 4118
Foreclosure No. 763-V-96

NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE

Pursuant to the verified petition for sale under Act 3135, as amended by Act 4118, filed by mortgagee EQUITABLE BANKING CORPORATION, with principal place of business at Metro Manila against mortgagor/s SPS. ALONZO S. CALILUNG AND CORAZON C. CALILUNG, with residence and postal address at 3027 Calsons Drive, San Agustin Village, Mapulang Lupa, Valenzuela, Metro Manila, to satisfy the mortgage indebtedness which as of February 12, 1996 amounts to ONE MILLION EIGHT HUNDRED SEVENTY FIVE THOUSAND PESOS (P1,875,000.00) Philippine Currency, including/excluding interests, penalty, attorney's fees, sheriff's fees, charges and all legal fees and expenses for the foreclosure and sale, the Ex-Officio Sheriff of RTC, Valenzuela, Metro Manila, hereby gives NOTICE that he or his duly authorized Deputy Sheriff, will SELL AT PUBLIC AUCTION to the highest bidder for CASH in Philippine Currency on April 18, 1996 at 10:00 o'clock in the morning or soon thereafter, in front of the main entrance of the Office of the Clerk of Court, RTC, Valenzuela, Metro Manila, the following real estate property/ies, together with all the improvements existing thereon, to wit:

T.C.T. No. T-105406

A parcel of land (Lot 1689-B-2-A-3-A of the subd. plan (LRC) Psd-292724, approved as a non-subd. project, being a portion of Lot 1689-B-2-A-3, (LRC) Psd-269484, LRC Rec No. 5941), situated in the Bo. of Ugong, Mun. of Valenzuela, MM, Is. of Luzon. Bounded on the NE. & SE., pts. 3 to 5 by Lot 1689-B-2-A-3-B of the subd. plan; on the SE., pts. 5 to 1 by Lot 1689-B-2-A-1, pts. 1 to 2 by Lot 1689-B-2-A-2, both of (LRC) Psd-269484; on the SW., pts. 2 to 3 by Lot 1689-B-2-B, Psd-64897. x x x x x containing an area of ONE THOUSAND (1,000) SQUARE METERS, more or less. x x x x x

Interested parties are hereby enjoined to investigate for themselves the title to the said real estate property/ies and encumbrances thereof, if any there be.

Valenzuela, Metro Manila, March 11, 1996.

(Sgd.) DOMINADOR D. BORNASAL, JR.
Clerk of Court & Ex-Officio Sheriff

CC: All parties

WE FORUM
Mar. 18, 25 & Apr. 1, 1996

More than just casinos

PAGCOR helps turn out sports champions.



There is more to the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation than just casinos, than just affording gaming and leisure activities. Among the many roles it plays and the many tasks it performs, PAGCOR helps bring out the best among our athletes and turn them into international champions.

Since 1990, more than P707 million of PAGCOR's income went to the Philippine Sports Commission for

the training and development of Filipino athletes. With PAGCOR's help, the Philippine Team shattered previous performances en route to a record 91 gold medal haul in the 16th Southeast Asian Games. A real winning performance by Filipino athletes, whose lives are among the millions that PAGCOR has touched. Because, in more ways than one, PAGCOR matters. And PAGCOR cares.



Philippine Amusement & Gaming Corporation
Responding through Responsible Gaming

IRRIGATION: KEY TO RICE PRODUCTION

By NICK REBONG

AT least 120,000 hectares will be irrigated with an expected yield of 600,000 metric tons of rice in the next two years once Senate Bill No. 1188 is enacted.

The measure, which the Senate committee on agriculture has reported out as Committee No. 7, seeks to effectively carry out agricultural development in the countryside and to address the implications of the Uruguay Round Final Act on the economy through the acceleration of the integrated ir-

rigation program.

Sen. Heherson Alvarez, sponsor of the bill, made the assessment during the continuation of the deliberations on the measure last week.

Interpellated by Sen. Ernesto Herrera, Alvarez also said that the bill has been rendered necessary by the failure of the government to achieve its target of irrigating 100,000 hectares of land per annum under its 10-year program.

With the measure, he said, the remaining unirrigated two

million hectares would be finished in 20 years.

Alvarez noted that of the 3,200,000 irrigable land, 42 percent or roughly one million hectares have been irrigated, 60 percent of which was under communal irrigation and 40 percent under national irrigation.

He said some of the irrigated lands are vegetable plots but majority are rice farmlands.

Alvarez explained that the buildup of irrigation systems suffered because there was



RICE PRODUCTION: Water and land go together.

enough appropriation set for irrigation. Of the 100,000 hectares per annum target, the government ended on with 25,000 hectares because of lack of money.

He said the government resorted to foreign borrowings; however, even if the funds were available the government could not provide the necessary 20 percent counterpart.

Alvarez also pointed out that the funds were usually released before the onset of the rainy season. Because of the present policy on the quarterly release of funds, however, the problem can now be solved, he said.

He said the government spends about P100,000 per hectare, be it communal or national irrigation.

On a regional basis,

Alvarez said, 124,000 hectares are targeted for irrigation in Region I or the Ilocos; 122,000 hectares in Region 2 or Cagayan Valley and 127,000 hectares in Region III or Central Luzon.

He stressed that priority would be given to irrigation projects that would be finished during the dry season and the rehabilitation of existing systems could be included in the ongoing program of the National Irrigation System.

Alvarez also pointed out that if the service area is huge, a national irrigation system would be put in place; in areas where the farmers have organized themselves into cooperatives, it would be a communal system.

In a communal irrigation system, he said, the farmers' organization would take over 10 percent of the building of the system with the rest of the cost to be subsidized by the government. But if the cooperative would assume 30 percent of the cost, the whole expenditure would be written off.

He said the loan would be payable in 50 years without interest.

To ensure speedy implementation of the program, Alvarez said the bill would create an oversight committee to tighten the screws on the delivery system. There would be stiff rules and regulations. Funding would be assured. And the general contracting procedure, which would be shortened, would be made to conform to standards. (MNC Agri News Service)

New scheme for credit among farmers

By ESTEFANIA S. ERMITA



FINANCE Secretary Roberto de Ocampo is proposing the organization of farmers into cooperatives nationwide to enable them to get better access to rural credit and improve their productivity.

"The Philippines could best promote its food security by organizing its farmers into cooperatives nationwide to enable them to improve their bargaining power in accessing themselves to agricultural credit," de Ocampo said in an interview with the Manila Newsfeatures and Commentaries.

While farmers in other countries have become rich and powerful, local farmers have been wallowing in subsistence for various reasons, including the abject lack of rural credit for farmers, de Ocampo said.

Rural credit is insufficient, interest rates for rural credit are high, and in most cases, rural credit is difficult to acquire, de Ocampo explained. The immediate response is largely knee-jerk, he said, stressing that rural institutions merely provide

more credit, lower interest rates or provide more banks or lending windows for farmers.

"The emphasis is quantity, not quality," de Ocampo explained. "Giving more money, lowering interest rates, or opening more banks or lending windows for farmers are not enough," he added.

"The answer lies in better credit delivery system," de Ocampo said. "We must devise a program to deliver effectively credit for our farmers."

De Ocampo noted that an overwhelming number of farmers cultivate small farmplots, thus limiting their productivity and access to credit. But if these farmers would organize themselves into cooperatives, they could produce the necessary economies of scale to provide themselves with the necessary farm tools, post-harvest facilities, irrigation, seedlings, fertilizers and other inputs, he said.

They could apply the finite resources in more strategic manner, he added.

The Land Bank of the

Philippines and the Development Bank of the Philippines are the two government financial institutions that could provide credit to organized farmers, de Ocampo explained.

In fact, de Ocampo, in his capacity as an ex-officio board member of Land Bank, has urged the Land Bank to develop further this concept. The Land Bank has been providing credit to farmers' cooperatives, but they are largely those who are beneficiaries of the Comprehensive Land Reform Program.

De Ocampo said he has been developing his proposal into a more definite model for presentation in the March 19-20 National Anti-Poverty Summit. This model is largely for the poor farmers, who have been identified as one of the disadvantaged sectors in the Social Reform Agenda.

Food security has been a nagging issue owing largely to the widespread discontent created by the

(Page 6, please)

New mailing system saves money

THE Massachusetts Institute of Technology has achieved a major saving through central processing of outgoing mail.

The savings were demonstrated in a pilot effort with three large mailers — the Sloan School, Purchasing and Stores and Registrar's Office — last year. Postage savings during the pilot period totaled more than \$2,200.

Now the effort is expanding incrementally as Distributed Mail Centers (DMCs) come on line and departmental meter leases expire, according to Penny Guyer, manager of Mail Services.

Here's how the system works:

Guyer said the departments deposit their unstamped mail at their DMC in bins marked mail to be

processed for domestic and international mail. The mail should be bundled with a laminated barcode card or a sheet of paper giving the department name and account number. Mail services supplies the laminated barcode cards to established customers.

All outbound mail is sent out the same day it is deposited in the bins. Mail is

collected from the DMCs beginning at 2:30 p.m. Most DMCs also have a collection around 5:30 p.m.

All mail deposited is processed by Mail Services and then sent out to be barcoded and ZIP-code sorted before being given to the US Postal Service that night. This mail not only saves postage but moves much faster once it reaches the postal service,

Guyer said. Mail deposited for the later pickup is not sorted and goes at the full rate.

However, she noted, the mail that must be postmarked today for legal reasons for legal reasons should be flagged by the mailer because the presorted mail that goes to the vendor reaches the postal service after midnight and thus is postmarked for

the following day. Mail with today's date goes directly to the postal service but costs the full amount.

The Mail Service postage meters automatically seal envelopes, so unsealed letters may be deposited at the DMCs. Customers who prefer to seal their letters may do so. (MNC)

New scheme . . . (From page 5)

lack of rice supply and the spiraling of rice prices. It has been said that rice is a political commodity and that failure to assure its continued supply could trigger widespread discontent among the people.

The Ramos administra-

tion came under fire recently for the lack of rice supply, prompting administration officials to look for ways and means to assure food security both in the medium and long-term.

• MNC Agri News Service

EDITORIAL . . . (From page 7)

"Repent, repent, repent for the sins of commission and omission against the Filipino people. And my second message," Gunigundo further intones, "return, return, return the ill-gotten wealth."

It is an extremely relevant message for all the thieves in this government. The point is, the crooks, like Marcosa, have not even heard of that branch of philosophy called existentialism which holds

man as responsible for his actions and ascribe their stealing to God's will. Chances are Gunigundo's homily will fall on deaf ears. And chances are the recovery or return of the \$10 billion Marcos plunder is as nebulous as the outermost galaxies in the

infinity of space, considering Marcosa's kind-set

But Gunigundo has made his pitch and it is good for everyone's soul. It may not prick Marcosa's conscience, but a handful may be touched, take heed and stop stealing if only during Lent.

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES Regional Trial Court NATIONAL CAPITAL JUDICIAL REGION Las Piñas, Metro-Manila

OFFICE OF THE CLERK OF COURT AND EX-OFFICIO SHERIFF

PAG-IBIG FUND or HOME DEVELOPMENT FUND,
Mortgagee/s

- versus -
SUZETTE SONDIA,

Mortgagor/s

File No. 96-0020

X - - - - - X

EXTRA JUDICIAL FORECLOSURE OF REAL ESTATE MORTGAGE UNDER ACT 3135, As amended by Act 4118

NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE

Upon verified petition for sale under Act 3135, as amended by Act 4118 filed by Mortgagee/s PAG-IBIG FUND or HOME DEVELOPMENT FUND with office address at The Atrium of Makati, Makati Ave., Makati City against the Mortgagor/s SUZETTE SONDIA, with residence and postal address at Bldg. IV, Unit 2, LIT Townhouse, BF Resort, LP, MM to secure payment of the mortgage debt which, as of May 31, 1995 amounts to P696,824.41 including interest, penalty charges and all legal fees and expenses incidental to this foreclosure and sale, the Executive Judge of the Regional Trial Court of Las Piñas through the undersigned Clerk of Court and Ex-Officio Sheriff of the Regional Trial Court of Las Piñas, Metro-Manila or his duly authorized Sheriff, will sell at public auction on April 15, 1996, at 10:00 am in front of the Municipal Building, Las Piñas, to the highest bidder and for CASH, in Philippine Currency, the following described real property/ies, with all the buildings and other improvements existing thereon, to wit:

CONDOMINIUM CERTIFICATE OF TITLE No. (854) 1264 - It is hereby certified that the unit identified and described as:

BUILDING IV, Unit 2

Two (2) storey residential unit with floor area of 76 square meters, with combined living, dining, kitchen, toilet and bath laundry with service area of the ground floor & two (2) bedrooms on the second floor x x x x is registered in the name of SUZETTE SONDIA, Filipino, of legal age, single, and with address at No. 52 Tirona St., Project 4, Quezon City.

Prospective buyers/ and/or bidders are hereby enjoined to investigate for themselves the title/s of said property/ies and the encumbrances thereon if any there be.
Las Piñas, Metro-Manila FEB 23, 1996.

RHANDOLFO B. AMANSEC
Clerk of Court & Ex-Officio Sheriff

(Sgd.) ANTOLIN L. OBSEQUIO, JR.
Deputy Sheriff

WARNING:

It is absolutely prohibited to remove, deface or destroy the NOTICE OF EXTRA-JUDICIAL SALE on or before the date of sale under penalty of law.

WE FORUM
March 11, 18 & 25, 1996

Republic of the Philippines Regional Trial Court NATIONAL CAPITAL JUDICIAL REGION Parañaque, Metro Manila

OFFICE OF THE CLERK OF COURT AND EX-OFFICIO SHERIFF

FAR EAST BANK AND TRUST COMPANY
Mortgagee/s

- versus -
JOSE VICAR ADRIANO, married to
MA. LUISA (MALOU) ADRIANO
acting in his personal capacity and as
Attorney-in-Fact of RENATO ADRIANO,

Mortgagor/s

File No. FRE NO. 96-20

X - - - - - X

EXTRA JUDICIAL FORECLOSURE OF REAL ESTATE MORTGAGE UNDER ACT 3135 As Amended by Act 4118

NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE

Upon verified petition for sale under Act. 3135, as amended by Act. 4118 filed by Mortgagee/s FAR EAST BANK AND TRUST COMPANY with office address at Far East Bank Center, Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City against the Mortgagor/s SPS. JOSE VICAR ADRIANO & MA. LUISA (MALOU) with residence and postal address at #2538 Lt. Garcia St., Bacalaran, Pique, M.M. to secure payment of the mortgage debt which, as of December 18, 1995 amounts to P1,431,508.32 including/excluding interest, penalty charges and all legal fees and expenses incidental to this foreclosure and sale, the Executive Judge of the Regional Trial Court of Parañaque through the undersigned Clerk of Court and Ex-Officio Sheriff of the Regional Trial Court of Parañaque, Metro Manila or her duly authorized Sheriff, will sell at public auction on April 16, 1996 at 10:00 a.m. or soon thereafter in front of Mun. Hall of Parañaque, M.M., to the highest bidder and for CASH, in Philippine Currency, the following described real property/ies with all the buildings and other improvements existing thereon, to wit:

TRANSFER CERTIFICATE OF TITLE NO. 47481

A PARCEL OF LAND (Lot 16, of the subd. plan Psd-49686, being a portion of Lot 16, Block 30, described on plan Psd-10987, G.L.R.O. Record No. 7698), situated in the Barrio of Bacalaran, Municipality of Parañaque, Province of Rizal, Island of Luzon, Beginning x x x x x and containing an area of SIXTY TWO (62) SQUARE METERS more or less.

Prospective buyers/ and/or bidders are hereby enjoined to investigate themselves the title/s of said property/ies and the encumbrances thereon if any there be.
Parañaque, Metro-Manila, February 29, 1996.

LEONARDA-LEILANI R. AMURAO
Clerk of Court & Ex-Officio Sheriff

(Sgd.) PERICLES U. TELAN
SHERIFF-IN-CHARGE

WARNING

It is absolutely prohibited to remove, deface or destroy this NOTICE OF EXTRA-JUDICIAL SALE on or before the date of sale under penalty of law.

NOTE: ALL PARTIES CONCERNED NOTIFIED BY REGISTERED MAIL WITH RETURN CARD/S.

WE FORUM
March 11, 18 & 25, 1996

Saber-rattling in the strait

MAINLAND China has been making a lot of noise lately. Last week it mounted a series of unarmed missile tests near Taiwan which it persistently claims as a Chinese province, perhaps to show the world that it has replaced Russia in the exclusive superpower club.

China may have done so but it may just replicate Russia during its heady days as a power at par with the United States, when it retreated from a confrontation triggered by the Cuban crisis after spy satellites discovered Russian nuclear missiles stored at Castro's island enclave. This was the high point of Kennedy's short-lived term, the dramatic days of the highest stakes political poker that could have plunged the planet into a war that could have destroyed a good part of it.

At the moment, China denies that it is merely saber-rattling in its attempts to shake Taiwan which is about to conduct its first democratic election since Chiang Kai-Shek was driven there in 1949 by Mao's communist hordes. But what would it achieve if it tried to annex Taiwan by force? Is it worth all the effort?

To begin with, there is the explicit and oft-repeated warning from the mighty United States that any belligerent action against Taiwan by China will provoke "grave consequences." This was not a publicity-seeking statement by any two-bit politician, it was released by the US state department, right after its strong denunciation of China's military exercises in the straits as "unnecessarily risky" and "unnecessarily reckless." Backing up its statements, two mighty US carrier groups are now in the area, each group manned by several battleships, cruisers, submarines and not much lesser vessels with enough nuclear warheads to pound a pulp a part of the mainland.

There is also the Chinese economy to consider. China's overseas trade, especially with the US and rich countries of Europe, has been booming the last several years. Economists admit it has overtaken the tiger and is clearly on the way to being a dragon economy, that is, if it is not yet there. The quality of life has vastly improved in recent years for millions of Chinese who have heretofore can only dream of houses or apartments, cars and other luxuries the West takes for granted.

Then there is Hongkong which will revert to China by June of 1997, just about 14 months away. Hongkong's free-port status has made it one of the richest enclaves anywhere in the world, like Singapore. Its acquisition would definitely boost the already zooming China economy to such a point as to make it second only to Japan a few years from now. A war China initiates would derail the planned transfer Britain had already officially conceded.

Would China risk its future for this foolish adventurism?

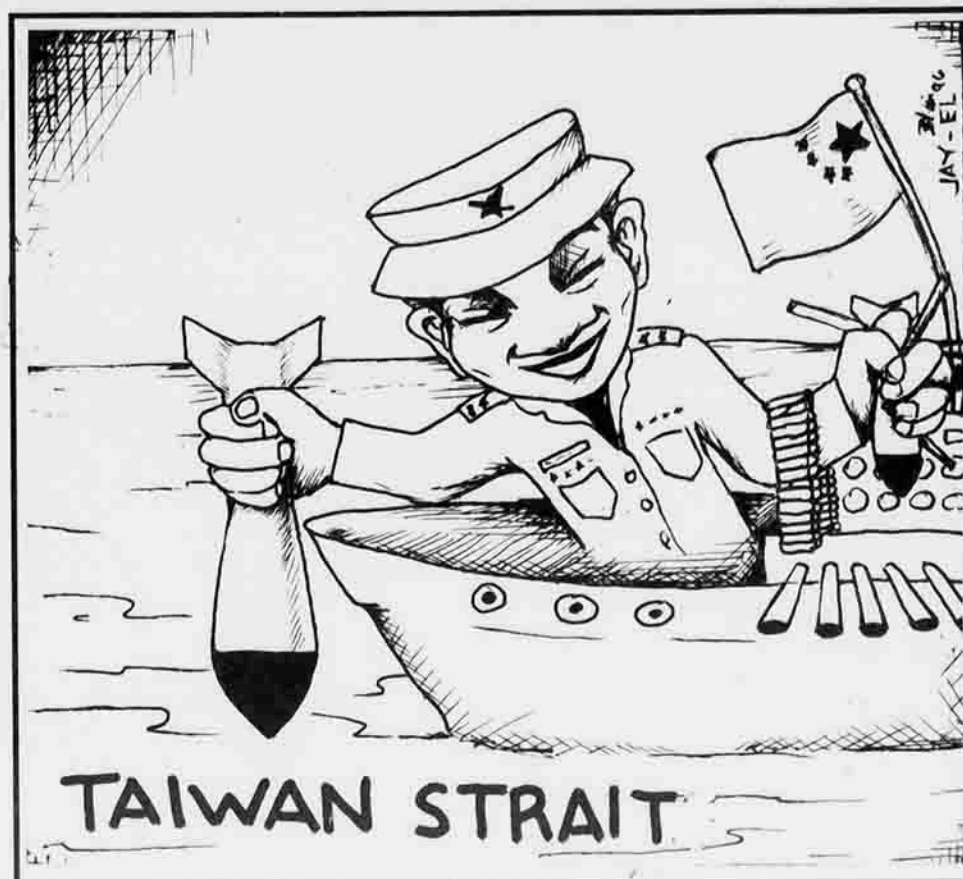
One can never reckon with the idiosyncrasies of Chinese leaders, however. Even MacArthur was misled. Promising the American people that the GIs would be home by Christmas after his rout North Korean forces starting from that famous and brilliantly-executed Inchon landing. China decided to make him eat his words. Without warning or reason, Chinese hordes smashed into the 38th parallel to help their Korean brothers, as the Chinese leaders put it. This was entirely another war, MacArthur claimed as he advocated the bombing of China, a strategy that was categorically rejected by Washington policy makers. Plus China's insolence, this rebuff marked the beginning of MacArthur's fall from grace. His hubris finally did him in, although historians rightfully postulate that pride is simply an infirmity of the truly noble mind.

Anyway, it is good to hear that this government has readied contingency plans for some 130,000 Filipinos now gainfully employed in Taiwan should the unexpected erupt in the strait. More than any other country after China, the Philippines comes closest to Taiwan. But even the strongest swimmers cannot make the distance.

'Repent, ye sinner'

THE Lenten season is the best time of the year to remind people about their mortality. And Magtanggol Gunigundo, an ex-Protestant church leader "who was well-known for his preachings," according to reports, appropriately took the occasion to tell Marcosa some ineluctable truths about earthly life.

(Page 6, please)



Back home

AS I waited for the PAL (Plane Always Late) aircraft for Naga last Sunday, I read with interest the news item titled "Mandaluyong bows to pressure." No, it wasn't about pressure from Malacañang but from a business conglomerate wanting to erect a skyscraper near Mayor Abalos' hangout and second office, Wack Wack. The business group had gotten what it sought: a building permit from the Mayor's office. A permit another conglomerate which wants to build a highrises in a residential zone of the city couldn't get, thanks to the firm opposition of concerned residents.

No, this isn't a case of double standard. It's just another instance of the Abalos administration showing its true colors.

"Bowing to pressure" is, of course, another way of saying palms are being greased. Politicians' palms are the greasiest, certainly.

Thus, it won't be surprising if, in spite of said opposition of concerned residents, the city government finally issues a building permit to the other conglomerate. The pressure will be heavier.

Politicians are really the same greedy animals. In Bicol, a lameduck congressman is doing his damn best to divide his province into two and is spearheading a move to amend the Constitution to enable the likes of him to run for another term. This congressman knows that he can't win against the incumbent governor or seek the mayorship of his city. He can't be a senator, either; and certainly he won't stoop

ONE'S WORTH



by MAX NOBLE

down to run, say, for vice governor or board member, who has very little power — and money.

Only the congressman's paid hacks in the media support his moves, but the congressman remains bullheaded. Meantime, his constituents continue to suffer from neglected roads and to wait on end for the fulfillment of at least one of his countless pre-election promises. According to informants, the congressman shamelessly swallows the pork barrel intended for his district.

Which is my district in Camarines Sur, to where I returned to visit my mother who had suffered a stroke — thankfully, only mild.

As I said here last January, the trip from the congressman's city to my hometown was one hell of a ride. It still is, and will likely remain up to the year 2000.

"You voted for him, didn't you?" I asked friends. "Don't you think you — and I — deserve him, in the same manner that the nation deserves Ramos?"

I returned to Manila the following day, further convinced that my hometown and my district are most unfortunate.

We Forum



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JOSE G. BURGOS, JR.
PUBLISHER-EDITOR

HEART &
HEARTH

by EDITA T. BURGOS

Hatred and
forgiveness

AT ABOUT this time last year, a friend called me up with this story. Her 35 year-old sister arrived from abroad last week to discover that her husband had abandoned their two children and was now living with another woman and their 1 year-old son. The story had the twists and turns of modern-day movies. The mother was forced to accept a job in the Middle East to stay away from her husband who abused her physically. In Saudi, love letters from her husband saw her through bouts of loneliness from being away from her two teen-aged children. Meanwhile she sent most of her earnings to keep their two children in the best schools in the province.

Hoping to surprise her family, she came home unannounced after working for two years, laden with 'pasalubongs'. Imagine her shock and pain when she came home to find that her husband had abandoned their home just a few months after she left, leaving her children by themselves, to live with a new girl and a son. The kids were given their 'allowances' by their father, a small percentage of what she sent. One didn't need any skill to deduce that what she sent went to the 'other' family.

When we saw her in our friend's house she was crying her heart out. Hatred, anger and revenge filling her once loving martyr-heart.

She asked us for advice on what her next move should be. She spoke of a hundred and one ways to hurt her husband and his new family.

Options were discussed, legal and otherwise, but somehow nothing came out of it because she didn't have the resources to pursue anything seriously.

A few months later we saw her again and all she could talk about was how her husband would burn in hell, how she planned to file a case of adultery, of how she wanted to see them suffer. She looked like a woman of 60 suffering from a debilitating disease.

When hatred is allowed to dwell in one's heart, the mind and body is drugged that rationality is obscured. The mind becomes an abode of bitterness. It is said that hatred, anger and envy make people ill, burn out cells, and use up adrenalin.

It is therefore logical to see that one who forgives easily is the man who is truly happy. And yet this is difficult to understand. It takes the wisdom of the holy to know that one who overlooks slights and

Politics, Larouche & the environment

THE Antonio Yap-De Venecia-Ponce Enrile camp has written off the neck-scruffing incident between them and Vice-President Erap Estrada's alleged gamester crony, a certain Ang, as a closed case.

The Estrada side, on the other hand, prefers to call the affair as the opening shot in the wheeling, dealing battle for the Presidency in 1998.

"How can you call this case closed after Speaker De Venecia pushed Yap to make a privilege speech denouncing Estrada for allegedly assigning his beakbusting crew to manhandle Ang?" an Estrada partisan told this reporter last week. "The case had been amicably settled, but De Venecia saw his chance to drive a few nails more into Erap's Presidential coffin by making a molehill out of a virus dung pile. They're going to hear from us, you can be sure."

The scenario is growing increasingly brighter for Fidel Ramos' food security legions.

A petition has just been received (copy furnished the Speaker of the House) from concerned country leaders who worry over reports big land development companies are going to build golf courses in every one of the Philippines 44,000 barrios.

No, they're not going to teach provincianos how to keep up with the golfing Joneses of the big cities. They're priming up land values so they can sell golf club memberships to the local people. The "snob appeal" attached to owning golf shares, it was explained, will so disarm the locals they might end up buying their own lands back — at a thousand plus percent premium, of course.

If the government does move fast enough to protect agricultural land from being turned into golf properties, the rice and corn production program could get a boost.

There's still one more drawback, unfortunately. Many prime ricelands in the Philippines lie in the orbit or the shadow of great mountain ranges whose eroded treeless hills are degrading the once fertile valleys below them. Vast sums of money were taken from government appropriations and the so-called debt-for-nature scheme.

Both schemes, alas, have yet to cope with the crucial soil-cum-water enhancing needs of Filipino farmers. Despite a promising

offers forgiveness even before it is sought is the man who does not look for happiness in this world because he has already found it.

Was this friend justified to be angry? Yes. Did she have reason to be bitter? Yes. Was she provoked to seek revenge? Yes. But who suffered from her anger, bitterness and hatred? She was her first victim because she could not go on with her life.

At the second meeting, another friend frankly told her how she was making herself and her children suffer because bitterness was eating her up.

This must have gotten to her.

Yesterday, we heard that this friend was now back in the Middle East, this time her two children are preparing to follow her and they will move out to Europe. And from the picture we saw, it looked like she put her past behind her and anticipated a brighter future for the kids.

communal forest program by former Secretary Fulgencio Factoran, the gap between trees and actual forests remains precarious.

Lyndon Larouche is a perennial American Presidential end-runner who has been described as next-of-kin to certain Lakas-NUCD stalwarts. They lose consistently at the polls — and then consistently make their way to choice cabinet or executive positions in Malacañang. Larouche is so little known outside the American capital the American Embassy in Manila had to fax Washington to get a line on him.

Larouche is slowly becoming a TV personality. He has become like the American editor who chose to write an editorial about the situation in Afghanistan because writing about the hometown situation could prove injurious to his health.

Instead of attacking other Presidential candidates for their stand on single motherhood and adult abuse, however, Larouche has zeroed in on the international debt-buyback scandal. Savings and loans associations in America are already a trillion dollars in the hole, caused by many small banks buying the debt notes of poor countries, and then finding them uncashable. Tidal waves from this notorious scam have already started washing upon Philippine shores. Before the end of the month, the names and debt-equity-to-nature status of some powerful names in Philippine business, industry, banking and mass media will be known.

As though anyone except one or two solitary congressional and Lakas-NUCD investigators cared.

Sayang ang pagod! say Filipino Washington journalists. There's a fly in this seemingly impregnable position of the Philippine debt note beneficiaries, of course. Lyndon Larouche is now getting a steady feedback of the debt issue shenanigans from the countries whose elites benefited from them. American media owners are not beholden either to them or other fellow conspirators abroad. If the stateside debt-buyback news escalates as everyone expects before the American elec-

Kapag gumising
ang higante

MAIGTING ang tensyon ngayon sa pagitan ng People's Republic of China (PRC) at ng Taiwan. Nagpaputok ng mga missile ang PRC malapit sa karagatan ng Taiwan.

Pasok naman agad ang pakialamerong U.S. at ipinadala na daw ang isang barko ng *seventh fleet* na *USS Independence*.

Kung tutuusin, probinsya lamang ng PRC ang Taiwan. Bahagi ito ng Mainland China. Dating tawag dito ay Formosa. Sa Formosa umatras ang mga natatalong Kuomintang Army sa pamumuno noon ni Chiang Kai Shik. Ang mga kumintang ang nagpapahirap noon sa mamamayang Tsino kaya't nang magkaisa sila, nagtakbuhan ang alipores ni Chiang Kai Shik sa Formosa. Tinalo sila ng China's New People's Army.

Matagal na nanahimik ang PRC. Nagkaroon sila ng *closed door policy*. Muli nilang binuo ang Tsina mula sa pananalanta ng bansang Hapon hukbong Kumintang. Ang Taiwan ay tinulungan ng Hapon at U.S. Ang PRC ay tumindig sa sariling paa. Hindi ito umaasa sa

EARTHMAN



by MARIO P. CHANCO

tions begin, there could be trouble. *Abangan ang susunod na kabanata...*

Also from Washington, this old story began making the rounds after it became known that Senator Ernie Maceda's triple heart bypass surpassed his double Commission on Appointments bypass of Postmaster-to-be Eduardo Pilapil's nomination.

Midway during his term, the late President John F. Kennedy paid a visit to New Delhi and was astonished to see people in this great Indian city walking from the streets to disappear in the bushes with little pails in their hands. He was told the Indians had now progressed to a point where they could use regular pails, not banana leaves like their peers in the Philippines.

"What a cruddy way to deal with crud!" Kennedy reportedly said.

His reaction reached the ears of Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru, who was naturally outraged. He vowed to get even. On his own visit to Washington DC, Nehru saw a well-dressed person disappear behind a mall on Connecticut Avenue with his own pail in hand. Summoning a group of American journalists, Nehru gloatingly called attention to the ongoing performance of an intestinal function and said the Indian equivalent of "Just look at the pail calling the kettle black!"

The reporters promptly sent a Secret Service man to investigate. He returned with aplomb in place and said, "That was no American, that was the Indian ambassador."

Another reporter asked, "Who was the other man following him?"

The secret service man replied, "No one of particular importance. Someone from the Philippine Embassy, whose relatives live at Smoky Mountain, somewhere in Manila."

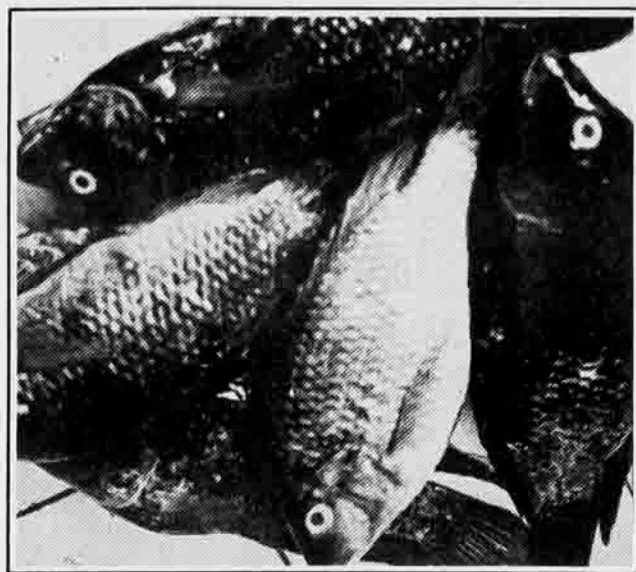
KILATISIN
NATIN

ni JOEY C. PAPA

tulong ng ibang bansa. Bagkus ay tumulong agad ito sa mga bansang sosyalista nang magsimula nang makabangon ang bansang Tsina.

Ngayong nais na bawiin ng PRC ang isa nilang bahagi, masisisi ba natin sila? Maraming aping mamamayang Taiwanese. Ang Taiwan ay para sa Tsina. Hindi dapat makialam ang sinumang bansa — kahit na ang U.S. O gusto na namang kumit ng U.S. sa pagbebenta ng mga armas sa Taiwan: kaya sila nang-iinriga na sasalakay ang PRC.

Sabi nga ng isang tanyag na *political observer*, hindi na kailangang magpaputok ng PRC para magapi ang Taiwan. Sa dami ng mga Tsino, sabay-sabay lang silang umihi ay lulubog na ang Taiwan.



TILAPIA IS A THREAT?

TILAPIA, the species widely considered as the savior of the slumping Philippine fisheries industry, is being blamed now by government's marine researchers as the culprit behind the sudden disappearance of rare species of small fishes in the country's lakes.

During the recently concluded National Symposium on Aquaculture Biology Research and Development, researchers of the Department of Agriculture (DA) disclosed that *sinarapan*, which was once believed to be the world's smallest fish, has become the country's most endangered fish. The fish can only be found in the Bicol region.

The reason—*tilapia* is feeding on them. Researchers say *sinarapan* started disappearing in Lake Buhi and Lake Bato after *tilapia* was introduced into the two lakes more than a decade ago.

Similar observations were noted by researchers in the case on another endemic species, the *tawilis*, which are present only in Lake Taal. The *tawilis*, which belong to the sardine species, is also considered now as among the endangered species because of the fast-growing but voracious fish.

Tilapia cultivation has gained prominence recently after production registered record levels. It is included among the six major fishes in the country—tuna, sardines, mackerel, roundscad, and milkfish, which contributed the bulk of production of the fisheries industry.

But among the six fish species, which all posted more than 100,000 metric tons every year, only *tilapia* registered a positive growth consistently. Thus, *tilapia* has already earned the title as the country's "fish of the future."

DA Researcher Eleadora Mercene has thrown the blame on the government for its erroneous aquaculture policies. She said that *tilapia* should not have been allowed to be introduced in the lakes where they have not existed before since the species will go after small fishes native to the lake.

Aside from three lakes, she cited the case of Lake Lanao, where the government introduced white goby several years ago. Mercene said the move has resulted in the death and disappearance of carps in the lake.

There are more than 2,000 varieties of fishes that can be found in the Philippines, but many of these have landed in the list of endangered species, certainly some may have already become extinct due to overfishing, pollution and siltation of the country's ocean and lakewaters. (MNC Agri News Service)

LOGGERS PLANT FRUIT TREES

By ELOY A. CALIMOSO

SOME responsible loggers have slowly succeeded in regreening the country's forests by planting fruit trees and cash crops interspersed with hardwood species.

At present, some 1,000 hectares have already been planted with high-grade mangoes and more than 1,000 with rubber. Now, some Integrated Forest Management Agreement holders are experimenting with *durian* by planting with an initial 100 hectares of the fruit bearing trees.

Aside from these permanent agricultural crops, another 144 hectares have been planted with coffee, according to Arsenio G. Bernas, president of the Philippine Wood Producers Association (PWPA).

Bernas is particularly optimistic on the *durian* plantation. "They can grow big, they can even give your lumber in the end," he pointed out.

Aside from its fruits which now cost about P120 each in Davao, a *durian* tree, which grows as big as 80 centimeters (two and half feet) in diameter, is comparable to *lauan*, one of the country's finest hardwoods,



DURIAN: Loggers' experiment.

according to Bernas.

"There is money in tree plantation if you combine it with permanent agricultural crop, which are environmentally compatible with the forestry program," he said.

Bernas, who testified during the recent hearing held by the Senate committee on environment and natural resources, appealed to lawmakers to include into the proposed logging ban bill that 10 percent of the area covered by IFMA will be devoted to cash crops and permanent agricultural crops.

The committee, chaired by Sen. Heherson Alvarez, is considering two separate measures calling for a ban logging in the country. One is authored by Alvarez and

the other by Sen. Orlando Mercado.

Since government stopped issuing the notorious timber licensing agreements (TLAs), it resorted to IFMA, principally as a forest conservation measure. But some unscrupulous IFMA holders found ways to abuse the scheme by declaring some areas "adequately stocked as inadequately stocked" thus, allow logging in commercial scale to continue. This led to the cancellation of some IFMA by the government.

Under the administrative order on IFMA already allows 10 percent of those areas covered by the agreement to be planted with agricultural crops.

"If it can be made into a legislative fiat it will help a lot because it will provide them with income while waiting for the trees to mature," Bernas said, adding that it will give them "a feeling of security."

Moreover, it will generate jobs for those who will be displaced with the eventual phaseout of TLAs. At present, there are still about 30 TLA in effect, but these will be reduced to three within the next ten years.

He said that in the case

of a rubber plantation, at least one man is needed for every hectare to tap the tree for nine months. So, more than 1,000 workers are needed to attend to more than 1,000 hectares of rubber trees.

The same is true with coffee. "You also need one man for every hectare to gather the berries for seven months," he pointed out.

Bernas said that already, IFMA holders were able to harvest some 200 tons of coffee last year. Bernas said mangoes will start bearing fruits on the sixth year, while coffee only needs five years.

Thus, there is a need to provide some permanency with the government program, he said, because "these crops, unlike rice which you harvest in four months, these are long gestation crops."

At the same time, especially in the case of *durian*, he assured that indiscriminate felling of tree will be prevented since no one will cut a *durian* tree simply for its timber because of its highly-priced fruit.

• MNC Agri News Service

Bright prospects for poultry business

INCREASING population and improving consumer lifestyles and changing preferences make the prospects of the poultry business in the Visayas and Mindanao region bright this year.

According to a livestock and poultry update issued by the Foundation for Resource Linkages and Development Inc. (FRLD), chicken consumption in the south is projected to increase by 30 to 50 percent in the immediate future.

The projected surge in demand for chicken is triggered primarily by the changing preference of the people in those areas as indicated by the growing number of people who now prefer to eat chicken, basing on the sales

of various newly-opened fastfood chain in the south.

"This is no better illustrated than the rapid sprouting fastfood restaurants within the region," the update pointed out.

It cited Jollibee, the country's largest Filipino-owned fastfood chain, as an example. The fast-food chain is already operating 17 outlets in the Visayas and Mindanao regions, and is set to open another two branches this year.

Also, the FRLD paper said, swift Food has been quick on its feet in capitalizing on the growing demand. The company now has 14 poultry branches in the area and reportedly there are plans to put up at least four more this year.

Currently, the paper add-



ed, the fastfood sector alone gobbles up as much as 30 percent of the company's sales in the south.

Among the Swift's biggest customers in the region are Jollibee, Kentucky Fried Chicken and Max's Chicken, as well as local outlets like

Chickies and Petties in Davao.

Other major integrators like Vitarich, Purefoods and San Miguel are also expanding their operations in the southern regions, the paper said.

• MNC Agri-News Service

TAK-TAK-TAK



AJI-NO-MOTO®

*Sapak sa Sarap
ang luto'nyo!*



A social worker in every town?

By DARWIN M. ESPINOSA

MANILA — Every municipality should have its own social welfare and development officer.

Sen. Franklin Drilon made the proposal as he filed Senate Bill No. 1297, which seeks to ensure the efficient delivery of basic social services to all communities.

Drilon noted that Republic Act No. 7160 or the Local Government Code of 1991 has provided for the devolution of the basic powers and functions of the provincial, city, and municipal levels of the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) to their respective counterpart local government units (LGUs).

The law has been conceived to be beneficial for the people as it allows the fast delivery of basic social services by the LGUs to its populace, he said.

"Unfortunately," Drilon pointed out, "the beneficial effects brought about the devolution is not being felt in most municipalities owing to the option given by RA 7160 to municipal governments to appoint or not to appoint social welfare and development officers."

Drilon expressed the view

that the optionality feature found in RA 7160 has led to the non-appointment of such officers due to the lack of funds among LGUs.

He claimed that this fact is both ironic and unfortunate considering that the bulk of DSWD's programs and services have been lodged by law to the municipal governments.

Under the Local Government Code of 1991, Drilon said, the social services that have been devolved to municipal governments are child and youth welfare, family and community welfare programs, women welfare programs, and elderly and disabled persons welfare programs.

The other social services are: community-based rehabilitation program for vagrants, beggars, street children, scavengers, juvenile delinquents, and victims of drug abuse; livelihood and pro-poor projects; nutrition and family planning services.

Drilon explained that in cases where municipal governments opt not to appoint social welfare and development officers, the people are deprived of a more profes-

sional and seasoned handling of the basic social services due to them.

Nevertheless, Heaver and Hunt added, putting additional resources into the PEM program will be difficult, given the current fiscal constraints.

Because the government is already spending, unproductively, an amount on generalized food subsidy that would be enough to finance the recurrent costs of reorienting the PEM program.

"The most financing option would be to reallocate resources currently going to the National Food Authority (NFA)," Heaver and Hunt said. At present, the NFA spends P2 billion to P3 billion a year to finance a generalized food subsidy which has been shown to do little or nothing to improve nutritional status of the poor.

Heaver and Hunt noted that the structure of the country's nutrition program is more complicated than that of the health program because at least eight government agencies have been involved on a major scale, aside from non-government organization who also helped in promoting proper nutrition.

At the periphery, they said, the same rural health midwives and barangay health workers who are responsible for health are also responsible for nutrition.

They are assisted by barangay nutrition scholars, who are volunteer workers with very small allowances, mostly not more than P50 a month, and work for one or two hours a day on growth monitoring, supplementary feeding, micronutrient distribution and nutrition education.

On the average, there is one barangay nutrition scholar

for every three barangays in the country. However, Heaver and Hunt said, still the growth promotion program in the country has not worked well.

Growth monitoring is an essential tool for showing parents that their children are malnourished and that malnutrition responds quickly to feeding small additional quantities of food.

Heaver and Hunt explained that growth monitoring is often infrequent and of poor quality as is counseling. Food supplementation has not been adequately

targeted on the 24-month age group most at risk, food supplements for children are often taken home and shared with other family members, and many children stay in the feeding program for six to 24 months, thus encouraging dependency on it.

They also said that there have been ambivalence and lack of understanding as to whether supplementation is a growth promotion intervention to educate parents about better childcare or a food security intervention to provide a safety net for the very poor. (MNC)

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES REGIONAL TRIAL COURT FOURTH JUDICIAL REGION BRANCH XVIII TAGAYTAY CITY

Land Reg. Case No. TG-735

LRA Record No. N-66021

NOTICE OF INITIAL HEARING

To the Hon. Solicitor General, Office of the Solicitor General, 134 Amoroso St., Legaspi Village, Makati City; the Director, Land Management Bureau, Escolta, the Regional Executive Director, Region IV, L & S Bldg., 1515 Roxas Blvd., Ermita, the Hon. Secretary, Department of Public Works and Highways, Bonifacio Drive, Port Area, the Director, Bureau of Mines, Pedro Gil St., Malate, the Director, Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, P.O. Box 623, all in Manila; the Provincial Governor, the Provincial Fiscal, the Provincial Treasurer, the Provincial Engineer, the Public Works and Highways District Engineer, the CENRO Officer, CENRO, Land Management Sector, all in Trece Martires City; the Municipal Mayor, the Municipal Council, Silang, Cavite; Leoncio Tapia, Pilar Sulit, Arisdon Tapia, Gertrudes Umundap, Felipe Magsino, all in Brgy. Maguyam, Silang, Cavite; AND TO ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

An application having been filed in the above-entitled case by SEVERINO TAPIA, Widow, Brgy. Maguyam, Silang, Cavite thru Atty. Ireneo A. Anarna, Alejandro & Anarna Law Office, 11 Madlansacay St., Silang, Cavite praying for the registration and confirmation of the title to the following described land:

A parcel of land (Lot 10523, Cad. 452-D, Silang Cadastre, as shown on plan, Ap-04-008810, L.R.C. Record No.), situated in the Barangay of Maguyam, Municipality of Silang, Province of Cavite, Island of Luzon. Bounded on the SE., along line 1-2 by Lot 10521; along line 2-3 by Lot 10525; along line 3-4 by Lot 10527; along line 4-5 by Lot 10524, all of Cad. 452-D, Silang Cadastre; on the NW., along lines 5-6-7 by Maguyam River; and on the NW., along line 7-1 by Lot 10522, Cad. 452-D, Silang Cadastre. Beginning at a point marked "1" on plan, being N. 32 deg. 39'E., 4987.36 m. from BLM No. 1, Cad 452-D, Silang Cadastre.

thence S. 8 deg. 13'W., 14.34 m. to point 2;
thence S. 6 deg. 44'W., 45.92 m. to point 3;
thence S. 7 deg. 23'W., 7.55 m. to point 4;
thence S. 82 deg. 48'W., 222.83 m. to point 5;
thence N. 23 deg. 11'E., 13.77 m. to point 6;
thence N. 21 deg. 57'E., 68.24 m. to point 7;
thence N. 84 deg. 27'E., 199.48 m. to the point of

beginning, containing an area of FOURTEEN THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED FORTY FIVE (14,545) SQUARE METERS. All points referred to are indicated on the plan and are marked on the ground by PS cyl. conc. mons. 15x60 cm.; bearings grid; date of original survey, February 1-March 19, 1981, Date prepared June 30, 1995 and was approved on August 23, 1995.

You are hereby served this notice to appear before this Court at its session to be held at Branch XVIII, Tagaytay City, Philippines, on the 3rd day of May, 1996, at 8:30 o'clock in the forenoon, then and there to present such claim as you may have to said land or any portion thereof, and to submit evidence in support of such claim and unless you appear at said Court at the time and place aforesaid, your default will be recorded and the title to the land will be adjudicated and determined in accordance with law and the evidence before the Court, and thereafter you will forever be barred from contesting said application (or petition) or any decree entered thereon.

Witness: the HON. ALFONSO S. GARCIA, Judge of said Court, the 16th day of February, in the year 1996.

Issued at Quezon City, Philippine this 26th day of February, 1996.

A T T E S T :

REYNALDO Y. MAULIT
Administrator
Land Registration Authority
By:
(Sgd.) SALVADOR L. ORIEL
Chief, Docket Division

A True Copy:
(Sgd.) ADELAIDA I. CARAIG
Chief, Publication of Notices Section

WE FORUM
March 18, 1996

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES REGIONAL TRIAL COURT NATIONAL CAPITAL JUDICIAL REGION BRANCH 106, QUEZON CITY

IN THE MATTER OF ADOPTION
OF THE MINOR ANNA MARGARITA
DE GUZMAN,

NOEL F. DIZON,

Petitioner,

X - - - - - X

SP. PROC. NO. Q-96-26432

O R D E R

This is a verified petition filed by Noel F. Dizon through Counsel, praying that after due notice, publication and hearing, the minor ANNA MARGARITA DE GUZMAN be declared as his child by adoption.

The petition being sufficient both in form and in substance is hereby set for hearing on April 2, 1996 at 8:30 o'clock in the morning, serving notice upon anyone who may have objections thereto, to file his/her opposition in this Court, on or before the aforesaid date.

Let copy of this Order be published at the expense of the petitioner, once a week for three (3) consecutive weeks in the "We Forum," a newspaper of general circulation in Metro Manila, in accordance with P.D. No. 1079.

Further, let this Order and the Petition with its annexes, be served upon the Office of the Solicitor General and the Department of Social Welfare and Development. The latter is hereby ordered to conduct a case study on the petitioner and the adoptee and to submit to this Court the report thereon, on or before the aforesaid date of hearing, as herein indicated. The duly authorized representatives of the said offices are hereby ordered to be present at the said date and time, as herein specified.

SO ORDERED.

Quezon City, 15 February 1996.

(Sgd.) JULIETO P. TABIOLLO
Judge

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RP'S NUTRITION STRATEGY FAILS?

By GERRY A. CALIMOSO

THE nutrition strategy of the Philippines has failed to reduce moderate malnutrition to acceptable levels.

Several changes in strategy appear to be re-

The book, authored by Richard Heaver, a management specialist and Joseph Hunt, an economist, is based on consultations with various groups both public and private, who are involved in helping and promoting the children's welfare.

Titled *Improving Early Childhood Development: An Integrated Program for the Philippines*, the book aims to convince Filipino policy-makers and foreign aid donors to invest more in improving the situation of young children in the Philippines.

Among the book's findings and recommended strategies for reducing protein energy malnutrition (PEM) in the country are the following:

- The growth promotion program at the barangay level seems unlikely to succeed unless nutrition workers are better trained and paid a financial incentive commensurate with the time it takes to do good growth monitoring, counseling and supplementary feeding for a large population of malnourished mothers and children.

- With the phasing out of Public Law 480, food aid, resources, the government will need to take financial responsibility for the supplementary feed program. Furthermore, it will need to retarget the feeding program to the neediest women and children to make sure the additional expenditure is used as efficiently as possible.

quired, according to a book published jointly by the World Bank (WB) and the Asian Development Bank (ADB).



MALNUTRITION: Still around.

- The growth promotion program will need to be complemented by an effective nutrition safety net program for the food insecure, perhaps through a food stamp or public works program.

Heaver and Hunt pointed out that "these three strategies will together require a significant increased financial commitment to the nutrition program."

Such a commitment, they said, is affordable for a country with the Philippines' per capita income; poorer countries such as India have already been able to national

PEM programs with similar strategies and financial requirement into place.

In the explanatory note to the bill, Shahani estimated that at least 10 percent of the drugs sold in the market are counterfeit.

She cited that counterfeit drugs, which are secretly produced locally, has a current value of P2.5 billion. These drugs have been detected to proliferate all over the country in the form of injectable vials, capsules, tablets and syrups.

Shahani also said that most of the counterfeit drugs are

anti-biotic, anti-malarial, anti-pyretic and anti-diarrhea medicines which are the types often administered for serious or life-threatening conditions.

BFAD statistics show that from 1989 to 1996 a total of 98 cases involving the sale of counterfeit drugs are being perpetrated by 21 drug stores and unlicensed manufacturers all over the country.

Out of these cases, only six have been handed the guilty verdict; 26 have dismissed and 42 are still under investigation. (MNC)

WOMEN & COFFEE

By PAUL H. PADILLA

COFFEE does not contribute to coronary heart disease in women.

This was the finding of the largest and most comprehensive study conducted to determine whether or not coffee does indeed contribute to coronary heart disease in women.

The study, which was conducted by researchers led by Walter C. Willett from the Brigham & Women's Hospital and the Harvard Medical School in Boston, Massachusetts, did not indicate, however, whether the finding was also true with men.

There were studies conducted in the past that dealt with that particular subject. However, those studies had a number of limitations which left the question of whether coffee causes heart disease up in the air.

To come up with a definitive answer to the question, Dr. Willett and his colleagues spent 10 years studying more than 85,000 registered nurses without history of coronary diseases, stroke or cancer.

The research initially was a part of another study, the Nurses Health Study, which was established as early as 1976. When 121,700 female registered nurses, aged 30 to 55 years, were asked to mail questionnaires that dealt with their medical histories and lifestyles.

The participants were asked to mail follow-up questionnaires every two years to update the information on potential risk factors and to determine if any major medical incident had occurred in their lives in that time frame.

In 1980, the follow-up questionnaire contained an extensive section on dietary assessment, which included the consumption of coffee and other caffeine containing food and beverages.

In that year, a 61-item food frequency questionnaire that included questions about coffee with caffeine, tea, cola beverages and chocolate was added.

"Between 1980 and 1990," the study noted, "when coffee intake was also assessed, caffeinated coffee consumption decreased progressively among women... in 1980, 24.6 percent drank four or more cups per day, whereas in 1990, 11.6 percent drank this amount."

At the beginning of the study in 1980, coffee consumption varied greatly; 22 percent consumed less than one cup of caffeinated coffee per month, 17 percent consumed four to five cups per day, and eight percent consumed six or more cups per day.

The proportion of women who smoked cigarettes increased substantially with higher levels of coffee consumption, from 19 percent among those consuming less than one cup per month to 58 percent among those consuming six or more cups per day.

The study pointed out that "during the 10 years of follow-up, we documented 712 cases of coronary heart disease, including 567 nonfatal myocardial infarctions (heart attacks) and 181 fatal coronary heart disease events... However, controlling for cigarette smoking and age completely eliminated any suggestion of a positive association (between heart disease and coffee)."

"We conducted several alternative analyses to determine whether various aspects of coffee consumption might be associated with risk of coronary heart disease. But the analyses continued to show that coffee does not cause coronary heart disease," the study said.

"We found no evidence of any positive association between coffee consumption and risk of coronary heart disease in the largest prospective cohort study to examine this relationship in women," it added. (MNC)

NOTICE OF EXTRA-JUDICIAL SETTLEMENT

NOTICE is hereby given that the state of the late PEDRO (PETE) P. PARDILLA, SR. of Roxas District, Q.C. who died on Nov. 12, 1995, consisting of a parcel of land with TCT No. RT-24297 (157460) had been extrajudicially settled among his heirs bearing Doc. No. 195, Page No. 40, Book No. 165, Series of 1996, executed before Notary Public Jaime A. Manaois of Quezon City.

WE FORUM
March 4, 11 & 18, 1996