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# NPA WIPES OUT AFP BATTALION IN ISABELA Page 3

# LIBERATION

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# REJECT THE MARCOS CONSTITUTION

The "new constitution" is the latest handiwork of the US-Marcos dictatorship to legitimize its usurpation of absolute power and perpetuate its dictatorial rule in the face of the nation-wide resistance to martial law.

Rammed through the Constitutional Convention under conditions of martial law, the "new constitution" is an undisguised endorsement and legalization of the US-Marcos dictatorship. It is at the same time, a document of unparalleled anti-national and anti-democratic content.

Article XVII on "Transitory Provisions" by itself, is enough to unmask the criminal and tyrannical designs of the prime author of this despicable document. This infamous article invests Marcos with the complete license to rule and oppress the Filipino people indefinitely.

After concretely experiencing the ruthless repression unleashed by Marcos against all progressive personalities and organizations, and against the militant workers and peasants, the people now know fully well that the bayonets and bullets of the dictatorship will never sanctify the ballot.

The Filipino people can not be deceived too by the dictator's siren call for "free and open discussion" on the sham constitution. The very existence of martial law invalidates this demagogic claim.

The determined resistance against the Marcos dictatorship grows everyday. Justice Jesus Barrera in the convention hall; Sen. Diokno and the MCCCL; Sen. Aquino of the Liberal Party; bishops, priests, and nuns; progressive military officers and national-



People's Liberation Artists (PLA '72)

ist businessmen; students, teachers and intellectuals; the poor and the unemployed; and the resolute workers and peasants leading the armed revolutionary resistance.

The Filipino people will surely reject the Marcos constitution as they firmly VOTE NO on January 15. They shall have carried forward the struggle for genuine national freedom and democracy to new and greater heights.

# DID YOU KNOW THAT THE 'NEW CONSTITUTION'...

1. Allows Marcos to rule the country indefinitely by making him the head of a transitory government (interim national assembly) which shall exist as the regular government for as long as he wishes. (Sec. 1, Art. XVII)
2. Installs Marcos as the absolute head of a rubber stamp transitory government by restricting the membership of this body to the incumbent Vice-President and only to those members of Congress and the Constitutional Convention who have categorically expressed approval of the "new constitution". (Sec. 2, Art. XVII)
3. Invests Marcos with absolute and unlimited powers and prerogatives by allowing him to exercise simultaneously all the powers and privileges of the President under the old 1935 constitution as well as those of the President and Prime Minister under the "new constitution". (Sec. 3(1), Art. XVII)
4. Validates and legalizes, even after the lifting of martial law, all the proclamations, orders, decrees, instructions, and acts promulgated and issued by Marcos. (Sec. 3(2), Art. XVII)
5. Assures American citizens and corporations of the continued enjoyment of lands they have illegally acquired (under the Parity Amendment), thus reversing the recent Supreme Court decision on the Quasha case declaring that U.S. citizens and corporations have no vested rights whatsoever, to lands acquired in the Philippines and to the improvements made thereon. (Sec. 11, Art. XVII)
6. Provides Marcos and his executive agents the conclusive and final power to enter into treaties, executive agreements and contracts with other countries and foreign entities, and the right to review all contracts, permits, and concessions for the exploration, development, and utilization of natural resources. (Sec. 12, Art. XVII)
7. Guarantees the continued stranglehold and systematic plunder of our natural resources and social wealth by American imperialism and other foreign corporations by providing for the unrestricted penetration of foreign capital, unlimited repatriation of imperialist superprofits and other anti-national provisions like "foreign equity participation", "service contract" arrangements and "just compensation" for private and foreign-owned properties. (Article XIV on The National Economy and Patrimony of the Nation)
8. Concretizes the anti-peasant and pro-landlord policies of the Marcos dictatorship by virtually making it impossible for poor peasant and tenants to acquire their tenanted lands through the state's declared policy of "just compensation" for the landlord's lands and a prohibitive leaseholding-amortization plan beyond the means of the peasants and tenants. (Sec. 12, Art. XIV)

On Jan. 15, 1973, will you...



A) VOTE Yes

To the Marcos Constitution and  
Make Him Dictator for Life



B) VOTE No

And Reject the US-Lucas Dictatorship.

# AFP BATTALION WIPED OUT IN ISABELA

ILAGAN, Isabela, Nov. 29 — An AFP battalion of 300 officers and men was almost completely wiped out by the New People's Army in San Mariano, this province, in one of the major battles fought in that NPA base area since the imposition of martial law.

In another report reaching this capital, the NPA launched a commando raid on a PC detachment in Barrio Palawan, San Guillermo, this province, and without firing a single shot, disarmed all the soldiers they found in the place.

These and other NPA victories in the province since martial law were the people's answer to an arrogant statement made by Brig. Gen. Tranquilino F. Paranis, commanding general of task force "Saranay".

Paranis had boasted that he would take just 60 days to "sanitize" the mountains of Isabela. (See interview with Henry Kamm of the New York Times, LIBERATION issue of November 30.)

Launching his troops, the puppet general let loose a battalion of 300 men on the people's liberation forces in the forest regions of San Mariano.

Before they could get to their targets, however, the AFP soldiers were ambushed, losing about 250 men dead or wounded.

The survivors of the badly mauled AFP battalion were disorganized and in flight in the face of the people's revolutionary determination to stand their ground.

Later, barrio folk reported that several weapons carriers arrived to haul off the dead and wounded soldiers.

Earlier, the reactionary troops under Paranis had forced the barrio folk of many towns of this province to "evacuate" to the towns to pave the way for his so-called "sanitizing" campaign against the people's army in the mountain areas.

The barrio folk who were forced to leave their homes and abandon their meager livelihood were left to fend for themselves in the towns.

They were often left to starve and their sick were untended by civilian officials whose limited resources could not cope with the influx of "evacuees".

Many of the barrio people who were forcibly "evacuated" have since returned to their homes while others who were being or-

dered by the military to leave refused to do so, risking the indiscriminate bombings by PAF planes.

It was while the fascist troops were trying to "resettle" the rural folk that the NPA launched a commando operation last November 20 on the AFP detachment in Barrio Palawan, San Guillermo town, and simultaneously ambushed a company of soldiers in Barrio Dicaraywan, that same town.

In the Dicaraywan action, an NPA force waylaid an AFP convoy, decimating an entire company of a hundred men and capturing their arms. Among the AFP casualties was a captain.

At about the same time that the ambush was being carried out, a separate NPA force of 20 regulars wearing AFP uniforms entered the PC detachment in Barrio Palawan through a ruse.

Identifying themselves as a relief unit from Tarlac, they were readily let in.

Once inside, they rounded up the soldiers, cut off their communications facilities, and relieved them of their firearms.

Their prize included an M-79 grenade-launcher, seven M-16s (Armalites), four Garand rifles, and several single-action and automatic carbines and M-14 rifles.

The NPA regulars turned the soldiers loose before leaving their encampment but not before telling them that they should have no quarrel with each other since they all come from the toiling masses.

"Don't allow our oppressors to use you", the NPA men were quoted to have asked the soldiers.

In other actions in this province and elsewhere in Northern Luzon:

1. An AFP unit sent to ambush six members of an NPA force, which included four members of the Red Detachment of Women, were ambushed instead. Six of the reactionary troops were killed and two others were seriously wounded.

2. Three soldiers, including a second lieutenant and a sergeant, were killed in an ambush by the people's forces in Madela, Quirino province.

3. Thirty PC troops were ambushed in Tumauini, Isabela, last October. Their firearms were captured.

With the struggle raised to new levels

by the imposition of martial law, the ranks of the revolutionary forces have been increasing, and their fighting ability has been enhanced by arms captured from the AFP.

The Marcos-controlled mass media have reported that towards the end of the first two months of the US-Marcos dictatorship,

there had been 52 clashes with the people's forces, or an average of one a day.

Only a few of these had been reported upon in detail by the Marcos media because of the serious setbacks that the AFP had been suffering at the hands of the aroused and mobilized masses.©

## 'MASEM'

### IGOROTS PUNISH FASCIST TORMENTORS

BONTOC, Mountain Province, Oct. 25 (Delayed) — Militant national minorities of this province inflicted severe punishment today on the fascist troops of the local PC command in an ambush in broad daylight on the Maba-ay-Guinsadan highway about 115 kilometers north of Baguio City.

Three soldiers were killed instantly while two were wounded and rushed to the provincial hospital here.

Using firearms and such indigenous weapons as spears, head-axes and bolos, the national minorities also destroyed the weapons carrier (6 by 6 truck) which they were riding.

The ambush was in retaliation for the harassment and humiliation suffered by the masses at the hands of the soldiers.

In the past, their women had been mashed and undressed, allegedly for "inspection of hidden weapons", and men and women were subjected to brutal treatment when they had no cedula or identification card to show on demand.

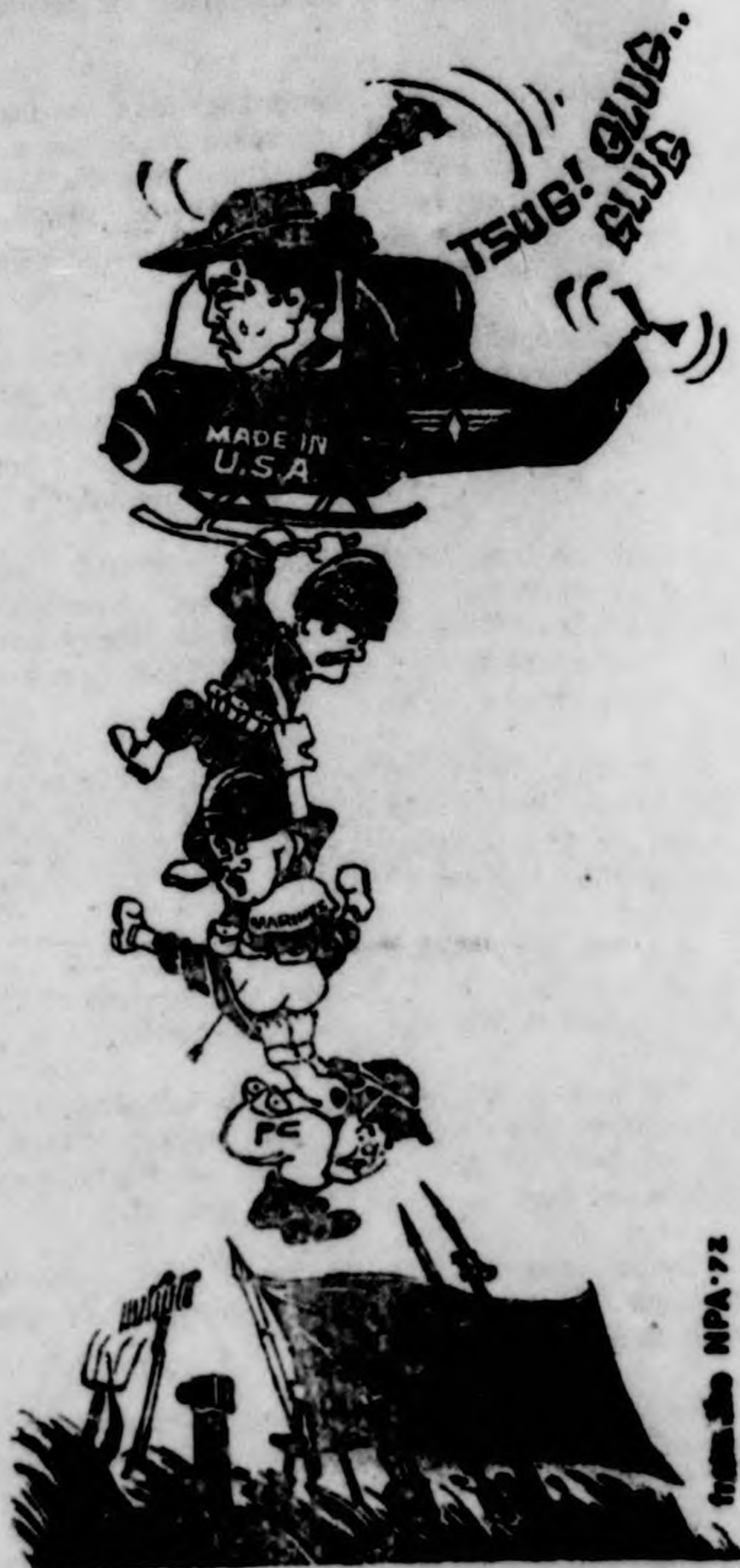
With the punishment inflicted upon the abusive troops, a common expression in this province today is "Masem" which, freely translated, means, "Serves them right".

The PC provincial commander, Col. Henry Acnar, has been so fearful of further punishment that he has removed checkpoints in remote areas.

Meanwhile, LIBERATION was trying to get confirmation on a report relayed by a Roman Catholic missionary priest that 19 soldiers were killed by the aroused masses in Natonin, this province.

Natonin is a remote town of this province near the provincial boundaries of Ifugao and Isabela.

The people of this town are known for their bravery in resisting the intrusions of landgrabbers and their PC or private security escorts in their communal hunting, fishing and agricultural grounds.©



### U.S.-Marcos Dictatorship Has 'No Parallel In Whole Of Asia'

The dictator Marcos' crackdown on mass media in the Philippines is without parallel in the whole of Asia.

This is the appraisal of the International Press Institute and the Press Foundation of Asia, as reported in the November 18 issue of the Far East Economic Review, copies of which were banned from entering

the country by the US-Marcos dictatorship.

Likewise banned from the Philippines was the November 20 issue of Time magazine which reported on the Marcos scheme to use the constitutional convention to perpetuate himself in power.

The magazine said in part:

"...Few are aware that last month Marcos pushed through a new constitutional provision that would enable him to remain in power indefinitely."

According to the Far East Economic Review, members of the IPI and the PFA have launched a campaign to persuade the outside world to "take a second look" at the martial law administration in the Philippines in the light of its continuing suppression of press freedom and other civil rights.

IPI delegates, who have returned from Manila after seeking clarification from the dictatorship with regard to the release of imprisoned journalists and resumption of publication of newspapers, pledged to continue campaigning on behalf of the imprisoned Filipino journalists.

They said that although Southeast Asia had had more than its share of martial law, the US - Marcos dictatorship's actions against mass media "have no parallel in the whole of Asia".

The Far East Economic Review continued:

"The delegates and the Manila - based (PFA)...had apparently done a great deal of homework and come up with some interesting data. An annex to the statement makes the point that the print media directly employed some 4,500 people and the broadcast media about 3,500. Some 20,000 to 25,000 were indirectly dependent on the media for their livelihood. Most of them are now jobless.

"The Manila population which used to be served by 18 newspapers is today left with only two general-interest dailies in English. One, the Daily Express, raised its advertising rates from P15 to P45 per column inch, while its sister TV station

(Channel 9) increased its rate from P2,000 to P5,000 per 30-second commercial."

"The annex states: 'Newspapers and radio-TV stations which have been allowed to reopen (and which are close to the government) are cornering all the ads and commercials to a point where they can afford to turn down some. The suspicion of many press people is that the administration will allow its friends to take advantage of this situation... Total advertising in 1972 was P250 million."

The Far East Economic Review said that since September, the IPI and the PFA had been restraining not only themselves but other international press organizations from making public statements, and with the moratorium ended, "our colleagues will now do what they want to do".

For their part, the members of the IPI around the world signed a pledge that "whenever possible, we will remind readers in our countries that:

"The Philippines remains denied of all civil liberties, its freedom of all education and all forms of expression have been totally suppressed and the leaders of its mass media are in prison without trial.

"The Philippine mass media, once considered the freest in Asia, have been suppressed to the point of death; the most well-known and established among them have no chance of reappearance; and this country of 39 million people is being fed on only two propaganda bulletins, which are financed and operated by President Marcos' own friends and subordinates.

"We pledge to do this through editorial comments and columns at least once a month.

"We also pledge that whenever possible and not unethical, we will also insert in news and feature stories a descriptive clause to add that it has been so many days ...since the suppression of the rule of law in the Philippines, and that President Marcos is the latest dictator in Asia." @

## 'SOC' CONDEMNS MARTIAL LAW

(Following are excerpts from the pleading of radio and television commentator Francisco "Soc" Rodrigo before the Supreme Court. He was one of several mass media men and women rounded up by the fascist dictatorship.)

Maybe the climate now stifles freedom; but as long as the seed of freedom is in the hearts and minds of our people, time will come when the climate will be favorable, and that seed will germinate and flourish once again.

The greatest tragedy that can befall our people is for that seed to disappear; for

their passion for freedom to be quenched. Then, even when the suppression passes away and the climate is again right for freedom, there is no more seed to germinate; no more ember to burst into flame. Then, we will be a nation of slaves.

Even now, we hear alarming statements from persons who are ready to surrender their liberties.

We hear some people say, "Martial law seems good; it has reduced crimes; it has brought peace"; not realizing that the peace we seek is "peace of freedom", not the "peace of slaves". I remember that the crimes also decreased suddenly during the

first days of the invasion and occupation of the Philippines by the Japanese Imperial Forces.

We also hear some persons say: "Hindi naman pala masama ang diktadura"; not realizing that this was the very same reaction of the Germans during the early days of

Hitler; of the Italians during the initial stage of Mussolini's coup; of the Cubans during the incipient reign of Batista; of the Argentines during the first days of Peron.

But power corrupts and absolute power corrupts absolutely. ●



Speaking before a group of historians recently, the dictator Marcos "confided" to his listeners that he had been in communion with God who, he said, gave him two signs to go ahead and proclaim martial law.

It seems the man has been so corrupted by absolute power that he would now have everybody believe that he had a "hot line" to the deities.

But he may not be as addled as we think. If anything goes wrong with his tyrannical rule, as indeed everything is going wrong, he will have a ready scapegoat: God.

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Mayor Bagatsing, in banning scavengers, would rather have thousands starve "to keep Manila as clean as it is now".

With the scavengers outlawed, Manila will be having more of the stinking garbage and more of the starving poor.

For a city government that collects garbage only under duress, the scavengers should be given civic medals instead.

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At the recent bash to open "Bagong Anyo '72", the suggestion went out that the wives of the generals and colonels attending the "gran pakulo" should be in simple attire, "in keeping with the norms of the 'New Society'".

So the senior officers' wives turned up wearing last year's ternos, sans the glitter of jewelry.

Little did they know that they were to find themselves at the short end of another of Madama's "one-up-manship".

The dictator's wife showed up in all her finery, all lighted up like a Christmas tree with her diamonds and rubies, and strutting about like a peacock.

As if to rub salt on the wound, she looked absolutely bored in the company of



Bagong Anyo '72

the military wives. She hardly talked to any one of them.

On the second day of the show, she showed that she had had enough of the generals' and colonels' wives. She brought with her her own army of "Blue Ladies" who fell all over each other in their haste to curry favor with her.

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Earlier, when the "Bagong Anyo" participants were rehearsing, six Bayanihan dancers, several models, and parents who had acted as their chaperones, fell ill because the food offered them was spoiled.

Looking superb amid the distressed beauties was -- you guessed it -- the radiant Madama.

The lucky woman had her food brought all the way from the Malacanang kitchen, and she had her ever-present food-taster sample everything before she touched it.

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We knew all along that Marcos doesn't realize that he is going backwards when he says he is going forward.

But now, it turns out that he doesn't know his left from his right and confuses the two with regard to the so-called second wave of insurgency.

We thought the first wave was the last word on the matter with the imposition of martial law. Now he is eating his words in talking of a second wave.

Perhaps, Marcos should go back to grade school and learn the song "I have two hands..." all over. ●