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'VOTE NO' MOVEMENT SNOWBALLS

The nation-wide popular opposition to the Marcos-sponsored "new constitution" has assumed a clear political and organizational direction as various leaders and progressive organizations started a massive VOTE NO campaign on the coming plebiscite.

Among those who have come out openly against the Marcos constitution are Justice Jesus Barrera, Senators Jose Diokno, Benigno Aquino, Gerardo Roxas and Eva Estrada Kalaw, ex-Senator Francisco "Soc" Rodrigo, and Fr. Pacifico Ortiz, delegate of Rizal.

The national organizations which have pledged their resources to this campaign include the Movement of Concerned Citizens

for Civil Liberties (MCCCL), the Movement for a Democratic Philippines (MDP), the Christians for National Liberation (CNL), the Philippine Public School Teachers Association (PPSTA), and the Citizens National Electoral Assembly (CNEA).

It will be recalled that the "new constitution" was forcibly approved in the Constitutional Convention under martial law during which Marcos had arrested and incarcerated known oppositionists and dissenters and suppressed all basic democratic and civil rights.

The delegates who were arrested and detained included known nationalists and Mar-

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cos oppositionists like E. Voltaire Garcia, Alejandro Lichauco, Ernesto Rondon, Teopisto Guingona, Jose Mari Velez, Napoleon Rama, Bren Guiao, Jose Nollado, Mangontawar Guro, Jose Concepcion, and Natalio Bacalso.

Delegate Jesus Barrera of Rizal, former justice of the Supreme Court and today an outspoken critic of the "new constitution", has already addressed huge anti-fascist mass rallies at the University of the Philippines and the Santa Cruz church.

A noted jurist and civil libertarian, Barrera has consistently exposed in his speeches the irrefutable fact that the "new constitution" in effect "institutionalizes a dictatorship in the fundamental law of the land" as concretized by Article XVII on the "Transitory Provisions".

Together with Justice Barrera, 14 other delegates voted against the notorious Transitory Provisions which empower Marcos to head a transitional government with no definite time limit on its existence. This provision, therefore, will allow Marcos to remain as dictator beyond 1973 and for as long as he wishes.

The delegates who voted no to the Transitory Provisions are: Dakila Castro, Juan David, Marcelo Fernan, Andres Flores, Leon Garcia, Jr., Ramon Gonzales, Sedfrey Ordonez, Rolando Piit, Aquilino Pimentel, Decoro Rosales, Jose Santillan, Jose Suarez, Margarito Teves, and Pedro Yap.

Those who have been forced to go underground or have deliberately refused to attend the mock proceedings of the Marcos convention include Delegates Heherson Alvarez, Bonifacio Gillego and Antonio Araneta, Jr.

In various schools, colleges, and communities, the massive opposition to the Marcos constitution has been expressed by the formation of organizations like the Democratic Movement to Reject the Marcos Constitution.

Initial surveys conducted in different communities and mock plebiscites in schools have shown an unmistakable trend towards an overwhelming rejection of the sham constitution.

Many voters have confessed that they know Marcos will never respect the people's mandate on January 15 as the whole country is sure to reject the sham constitution and repudiate the dictatorship.

They added, however, that by consciously voting NO to the Marcos constitution, they shall have concretized once more their firm resistance to the US-Marcos dictatorship.

As one voter said, "We shall vote NO today, but we will not stop there". ●

INTO THE DUSTBIN OF HISTORY

The following are excerpts from the speeches of Delegates Leon M. Garcia, Jr. and Pacifico A. Ortiz, explaining their no vote to the Marcos constitution:

...If we search each other's conscience, we will have an idea... as to whether we... have thrown ourselves into the dustbin of history....

...That there are external forces and vested groups which made their influences felt in the deliberations and proceedings of this Convention, cannot be denied. Such influences have their patent marks in scattered provisions of this proposed Constitution, especially in the articles on the National Assembly, the Prime Minister and the Cabinet, the National Economy and Patrimony of the Nation, and the Transitory Provisions.

...How can I vote for this proposed Constitution when it has not placed sufficient restrictions on the exercise by the Prime Minister of certain powers, thereby making whoever is elected Prime Minister — a virtual dictator How can I vote for this proposed Constitution when I know that the so-called official working draft was actually prepared by only a very small group of my fellow delegates who took upon themselves the task of accepting and rejecting proposed amendments without the benefit of the whole convention participating therein How can I vote for this proposed Constitution, when the aliens in this country will be enjoying more rights and privileges under this proposed Constitution than what they are enjoying now under the 1935 Constitution. How can I vote for this proposed Constitution when an obnoxious feature creating an ad interim National Assembly is included, indicating that there is a conspiracy among the ambitious and the power-holders to perpetuate themselves in power.

...I cannot close my eyes to the glaring reality that what we have evolved is not a Constitution truly reflective of the popu-

lar will but a Constitution only for a certain period of time, for a certain administration, for a certain person.

LEON M. GARCIA, JR.
Davao del Sur

... But history's warning is clear — "power tends to corrupt and absolute power corrupts absolutely", and we, as delegates, have no right to ask our people to play dice with their future, to gamble with their freedom on a dictatorial experiment.

For the transition government we are setting up is not a transition from the Presidential to the Parliamentary; it is a transition from the Presidential to the dictatorial, to a one-man Constitutional dictatorship. And though we call it transitory, this transition government may not transit at all; it may well become our permanent way of life, as it has become in many of the South American Republics.

FR. PACIFICO A. ORTIZ
Risal

AFP ON THE RUN IN ISABELA, C. LUZON AND MARAWI

Soldiers of the reactionary Armed Forces of the Philippines are on the run in Isabela, Central Luzon and Marawi in the face of the stiffening liberation movement among the masses.

This was the report of LIBERATION correspondents who had been keeping track of the guerrilla warfare being militantly waged by the people's freedom fighters.

In the provinces of Isabela, Tarlac and Pampanga, the armed campaign for liberation was being led by the New People's Army.

In Marawi, the anti-fascist drive was being waged by its citizens who had spurned every effort on the part of the US-Marcos dictatorship to get them to surrender their firearms.

From the reports of the LIBERATION correspondents, it was clear that the people's freedom fighters maintained the initiative, launching lightning attacks on AFP patrols and installations and then withdrawing to plot the next action.

NPA in Isabela Posts More Victories

IIAGAN, Isabela, Dec. 4 (Delayed) — The mercenary troops of the AFP have continued to sustain heavy casualties in the battlefields of Isabela as the regulars and guerrillas of the New People's Army stepped up their tactical offensive against the enemy.

In Barrio Dipocamo, San Guillermo, NPA guerrillas ambushed a 23-man contingent of army troopers and ISDU mercenaries yesterday, killing 10 and wounding the others. Two M-16 rifles were captured from the AFP troopers.

In Tausuini, a company of soldiers belonging to the 5th Infantry Brigade clashed

with NPA forces. It was later reported that two truckloads of dead AFP troopers were carried from the scene of the encounter.

In Barrio Villa Neri, NPA guerrillas waylaid an armored car, destroying it and killing the machinegunner as a fitting tribute to Andres Bonifacio on November 30.

Earlier, two truckloads of AFP troopers were wiped out by guerrilla forces among the Dumagats of Sierra Madre in San Mariano on November 28.

This came on the heels of a successful ambush staged by the NPA against AFP troops in Barrio Dipanyong, Bohague. The AFP troopers retreated, leaving an undetermined number of their dead. Not finding any NPA in the area when reinforced puppet troops returned to the scene of the ambush, they resorted to burning down the houses of the people nearby.

Earlier, the people's revolutionary forces had ambushed an AFP battalion of 300 officers and men in San Mariano, this province, and had killed or wounded at least 250 of them.

The ambush took place in a forested area while the soldiers were carrying out the empty boast of Brig. Gen. Tranquilino P. Paranis, commander of task force "Sarayay", to "sanitize" the mountains of Isabela within 60 days from the proclamation of martial law.

With these and various other victories, the morale of the people's fighters has reached new heights, enjoying as they do firmer and wider support from the population.

Meanwhile, the reactionary troops continue to be demoralized and more frightened to venture into the countryside of Isabe-

1a. It is only by conducting daily raids on the unarmed civilian population near town centers that they manage to demonstrate their ferocity and bestiality.

Central Luzon Fascists Punished

TARLAC, Tarlac, Dec. 5 — Fighters of the New People's Army have registered one gain after another in a series of guerrilla actions against the fascist forces of the dictatorship and their cohorts, especially in the so-called Barrio Self-Defense Units (BSDU).

AFP patrols and other units penetrating the rural areas of this province and adjoining Pampanga province have been most vulnerable to the attack by NPA regulars and guerrillas.

On the other hand, NPA units had been undertaking tactical offensives against AFP and BSDU installations and punishing those who have accumulated blood debts to the people while releasing those who had been misled into joining the dictator's forces.

Among the actions undertaken by the NPA since the imposition of martial law last September were the following:

1. In late October, an NPA platoon raided a BSDU camp in Barrio Villa, this town, disarmed everybody in the camp and confiscated 11 long firearms. A richard BSDU man was killed while his companions were released.

2. In late November, NPA guerrillas ambushed an armored jeep in Barrio Fatling, this town, killing a PC lieutenant and wounding several soldiers.

3. On December 9, two NPA fighters were laying a mine trap in Barrio San Juan, Concepcion when their project was discovered. Two armored PC jeeps with five soldiers in each vehicle gave chase but were ambushed with grenade launchers by an NPA squad. Both jeeps were destroyed.

4. In late November, an NPA unit raided a BSDU camp in Barrio Mahababata, this town, and captured seven firearms. They released the BSDU men.

5. In late November, NPA fighters also raided a PC-BSDU camp in Barrio San Juan de Mata, this town, killing 5 enemy soldiers and capturing their arms and ammunition.

6. In late November, a PC Ranger riding a tricycle was waylaid in Barrio Sta. Rosa, Concepcion town. His M-16 (Armalite) rifle was seized.

7. In late November, the chief of police

of Concepcion who had blood debts to the people was slain.

8. In late October, NPA fighters dealt justice upon a despotic landlord with blood debts in Barrio Manibag, Porac, Pampanga. They seized a Thompson submachinegun and a .38 caliber pistol.

9. In early October, an NPA Sparrow Unit entered a moviehouse in Concepcion town, killed three PC troopers and a BSDU man, and wounded another BSDU man.

AFP Battered in Marawi

MARAWI CITY, Dec. 4 — This city and environs have been rocked by a series of battles being waged almost daily by Marawi liberation fighters against AFP troops.

As a result, the PC provincial command has been beefed up considerably and has intensified its operations in the barrios around this capital but have had difficulty identifying and tracking down their enemy.

A battalion of AFP troops was almost annihilated in recent weeks as the Marawi freedom fighters stepped up their guerrilla operations against the fascist troops.

MANILA, Dec. 8 — One of the three survivors of a 220-man PC contingent sent to Marawi City recently was accorded honors in ceremonies in Camp Crane. Two of his surviving companions could not make it to the Camp Crane rites as a result of injuries sustained in battles in that city.

This was disclosed by LIBERATION sources in the AFP which added that the honoree was given medals and promoted from constable to sergeant. ●

BASILAN WARLORDS GET BACK FIREARMS

The military has started returning high-powered firearms surrendered to it by the big plantation owners and landlords in Basilan, an island off Zamboanga City.

LIBERATION sources in Basilan City report that the PC and the army can not provide security for the landlords because their forces are tied down to operations for the suppression of Muslim freedom fighters in Lanao and Sulu. Moreover, the relatively small number of troopers detailed in the plantations of Basilan have been disappearing. It was learned that the troopers are being kidnapped by the masses.

The military would now rather have the landlords fend for themselves with their high-powered firearms and private armies than progressively lose its own mercenary troops. ●

Soldiers Torture Businessman

The brand of justice which the military metes out applies not only to the poor but to some of the rich as well.

A businessman and his employee were picked up by army troopers on suspicion that they were using two-way radios in their cars. The businessman, who is a brother of a former newspaper columnist, is a restaurateur.

The two suspects were brought to a place near the Bonanza Restaurant on Highway 54, not far from Roosevelt Avenue in Quezon City, where they were tortured for two days.

Aside from the unmerciful beating given them, they were hanged by one foot and twirled with one arm barely touching the floor.

The two victims of military sadism could hardly stand up when they were released after their relatives had pleaded with top officials of the Defense Department.

No charges were filed against the businessman and his employee, as it turned out that the suspicion against them had no basis in fact.

The troopers averred with a leer that only by such tortures could they get revenge for the punishment meted out to them by the NPA in Isabela and other places.

It appeared that notwithstanding his protestations of "impartiality" in the administration of military justice, the fascist defense secretary, Juan Ponce Enrile, could not discipline the erring army men for fear of provoking a mutiny. ©

Dovie Beams TELLS ON 'FRED', MARTIAL LAW

The following item appeared in the martial law edition of the Philippine Tribune published in Los Angeles, California:

LOS ANGELES — Dovie Beams, who had figured in a romantic scandal with a certain "Fred" in Manila two years ago, disclosed in a televised interview here that Presi-



People's Liberation Artists (P.L.A.'72)

REJECT THE MARCOS CONSTITUTION
VOTE NO

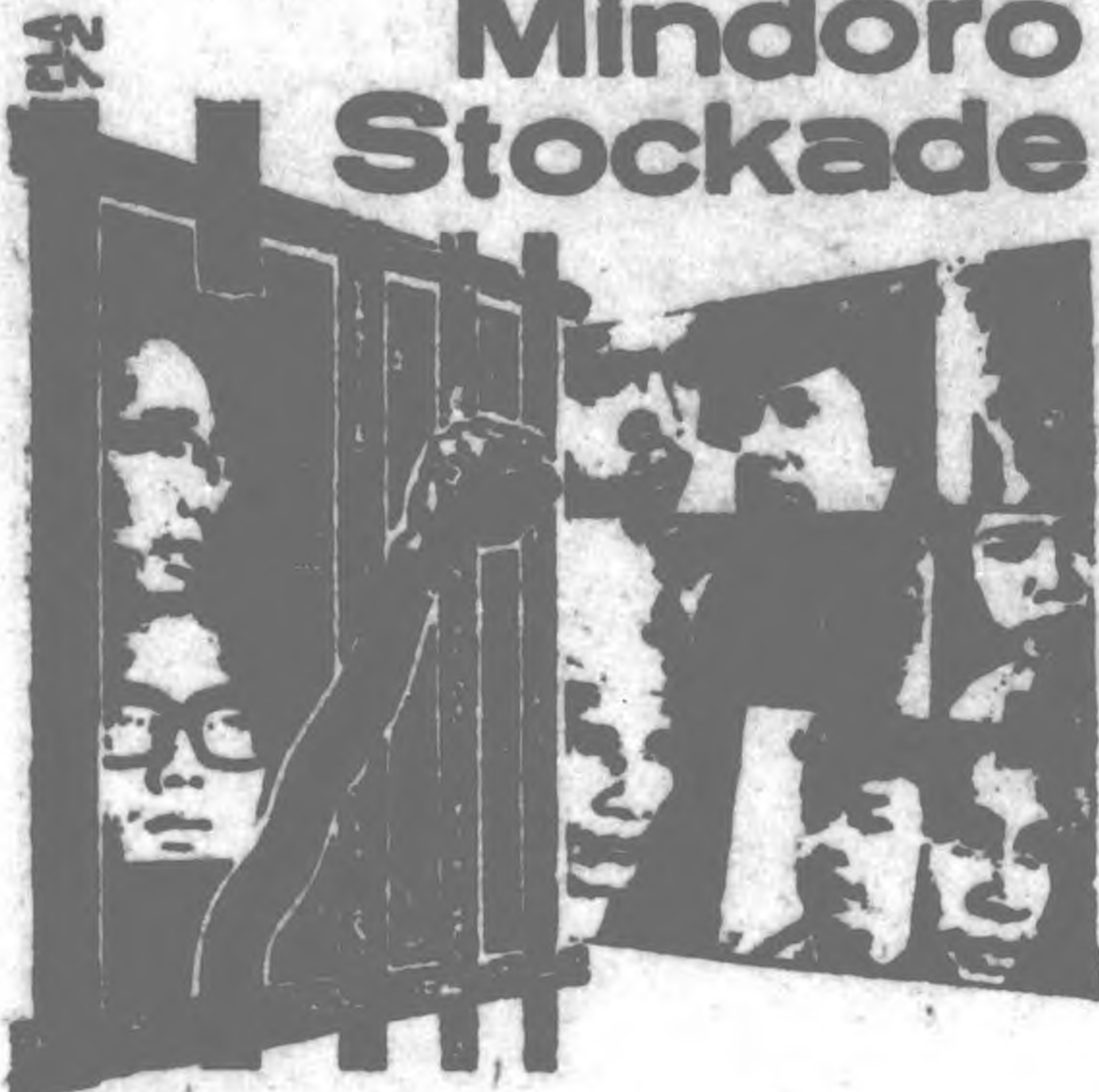
dent Marcos had plotted to declare martial law in the Philippines long before the alleged communist bombings in greater Manila area.

After the TV broadcast, the 5'5" shapely brunette even went out of her way and joined the Filipino activists who had picketed the Philippine Consulate office at 3290 Wilshire Blvd.

In her TV interview, Miss Beams said that President Marcos had planned martial law as early as three years ago when she was still in Manila making a movie.

During the dialogue with consulate officials at the Oriental Service Center, Miss Beams told Consul Salacio that President Marcos had confided to her in 1969 of his plan to impose martial law, and when she came back to Los Angeles later, she told some people about it but nobody believed her. ©

Message from Mindoro Stockade



Message to POLITICAL PRISONERS

The following is an excerpt from an article of the same title by the revolutionary guerrilla-priest, Camilo Torres, slain in 1966 by the mercenary troops of Colombia's oligarchy. It was first circulated as a leaflet in 1965:

I have already said that it is a duty of revolutionaries not to let themselves be assassinated. If they persecute us in the cities, we will go to the country where we will be on equal terms with the envoys of the oligarchy. Unfortunately, not all revolutionaries can or should resort to such extreme means, and thus, many will be jailed by the oligarchy and inevitably, as is usual under all tyrannical governments, will be tortured. But the revolutionary who is jailed does not by that fact stop being a valiant element in the revolutionary struggle.

From jail, the revolutionary must give the people the example of bravery and decisiveness, of self-sacrifice and loyalty to the revolution. He must spend time studying, preparing himself to understand better the justice of revolutionary ideals, and toughening himself even more for the day he regains his freedom. Furthermore, the political prisoner must show his guards and the other prisoners that there is a fundamental difference between himself and the common criminal. The revolutionary must demand by his conduct that his jailers treat him as a fighter for the people. There is nothing more demoralizing for the enemy than our bravery, than our integrity. Instead of feeling shame for being a prisoner, the revolutionary must feel pride in the fear he evokes in the oligarchy, pride in the fact that he suffers persecution for justice.

For its part, the popular class must see in the jailed revolutionary another stimulus to fight against the oligarchy. It must see in him a vanguard combatant who deserves all the appreciation and support. Consequently, it must give him all its solidarity by demanding his liberty and by sending him information, food, money, clothing, and books.

However, the greatest support that the popular organizations and the revolutionaries can give the prisoner is to step up the struggle. It is necessary that our comrade deprived of freedom knows that while he is behind bars, thousands and thousands of men and women are fighting to bring about the revolution — fighting to set him free. The best way for the people not to be prisoners is for the people to seize power. ●

The following is a message smuggled out by the surviving companions of activists who were murdered by fascist troops in Socorro, Mindoro Oriental (See LIBERATION, November 18 issue):

Mga kasama:

Patay na si kasamang REY ANDAL.
Patay na si kasamang DANTE PEREZ.
Patay na si kasamang TONY PASTORFIDE.
Patay na si kasamang RENE JULAO.

Ngunit ang kanilang kamatayan ay hindi kamatayan ng kilusan ng magasaka't manggagawa dito sa Mindoro. Ang kanilang mga dugo ay didilig sa yamayabong na kilusan upang ito ay lumaki, kumalat at tayo'y magtagumpay.

Kaya nga kasama — MAKIBAKA, HUWAG MATAKOT! MANGAHAS MAKIBAKA, MANGAHAS MAGTAGUMPAY!

Subalit huwag kayong magpedaluedalos; maguri, mag-aral bago kumilos.

MABUHAY KAYONG LAHAT!

Kas. Tessie
Kas. Erwin
Kas. Boy

EDITORIAL

MARCOS' RIGHTIST COUP VS. PEOPLE'S WAR

The nation's senses have been assailed in recent weeks by a strident alarm raised by the US-Marcos dictatorship about alleged conspiracies of the Left and of the Right.

By one account, the forces of the Right have put up a sizeable amount of money, "imported" mercenaries skilled in political assassination, and set in motion several attempts to kill Marcos. In its abortive plot, the dictator says, the Right has tried to "use" the Left.

By another account, it is the Left — the people's revolutionary forces — that is out to liquidate him, "using" the Right.

For variation, he spices up his conception by saying either the Left or the Right is anxiously waiting for the other to carry out the assassination plot, ready to "grab power" once the deed is done.

Meantime, the dictator has ordered the arrest of several persons identified by him to be behind the alleged Rightist plot.

We cannot say for now if these persons are actually among the authors of the plot, if indeed there is a plot.

What we find to be mysterious is the fact that they had been under military custody long before the attempt on the life of Imelda Marcos and yet they are being blamed for it.

Not as mysterious but amusing and ridiculous are the dictator's periodic rantings against the Rightists and the oligarchs when the fact is that he is the biggest oligarch hereabouts and is the undisputed fascist chieftain of the Right.

Bordering on the comic are his clumsy efforts to project himself as the Center and his imposition of martial law as a "revolution from the core".

By his tales of Rightist and Leftist plots on his life, Marcos means to conjure for himself the image of a singular figure, beleaguered but determined to do battle with the forces of the Right — the ruling class — who stand for conservatism and reaction, and those of the Left — the exploited and oppressed classes — who stand for progress and are in resolute struggle to effect fundamental change in a decadent society.

The image sought to be created and projected cannot materialize, however, since the masses of the people are not naive as the US-Marcos clique thinks them to be.

The inescapable fact, as earlier stated, is that Marcos is far from being an enemy of the Right. He is, on the contrary, the very personification of all that is conservative and reactionary, and a rabid advocate of the status quo in Philippine society.

A brief review of his record will show that he is the foremost stage and chief protector of US imperialism, feudalism and bureaucrat capitalism, the three basic ills of the existing order which must be excised if the Filipino people are to attain genuine liberation and national democracy.

It will be recalled that soon after assuming the presidency early in 1966, Marcos reneged on a pre-election promise he had made just a few weeks before. He dispatched Filipino troops to Vietnam in aid of the US imperialist war of aggression and genocide in that country.

In the years that followed, there were to be more irrefutable evidences of his betrayal of the Filipinos' interests while doing the bidding of his imperialist masters.

Still fresh in everybody's mind are the institution of the peso's "floating rate" as dictated by the International Monetary Fund, and his stubborn insistence that big American businessmen must keep properties and "rights" acquired by them in flagrant violation of the constitution.

As the protector of the feudal system, the dictator can only pay lip service to land reform since he is himself one of the country's biggest landowners, owning as he does about 22,000 hectares in Cagayan Valley alone, most of which he grabbed from settlers and small landowners.

As for bureaucrat capitalism, the dictator is the most notorious practitioner of them all.

It is a matter of record that it was while taking advantage of his tenure in the presidency that his personal fortunes and those of his cronies so expanded that he and his family can now match the most

POINT-BLANK

According to Malacanang hacks, one of the novel features of the Marcos constitution is a provision which empowers the national assembly to change the executive government if the prime minister gets out of hand.

For that matter, the 1935 constitution provides for impeachment of the President if ever Congress finds grounds to do so.

Through the years, we have seen how congressmen, senators and other elective officials take a beating from the President whenever they get out of his line. Remember Quintero?

It could be the "new math" of the "New Society", but the darn thing has left us flabbergasted.

First, it was announced through the Marcos-controlled media that the Bureau of Printing was producing 12.7-million ballots for a maximum number of 12.5-million voters in the January 15 plebiscite on the Marcos constitution.

Then Commission on Elections Chairman Jaime Ferrer said that based on all past plebiscites, he did not expect more than 40% of the voters to participate in the January 15 "galatas".

Of what use, then, will the additional 7-million ballots be? Won't they turn up in some ballot boxes already marked "Yes" and ready to be counted?

lucurious indulgences of the most profligate Oriental potentate.

The inauguration of his repressive military rule last September was preceded by a systematic campaign of black propaganda against the Left. Even as the finger of guilt pointed unerringly towards him and his minions, he effected one bombing after another in the Greater Manila area.

Today, he seeks to camouflage his role as the top leader of the Right by accusing alleged Rightist elements of seeking to preempt his Palace "revolution".

If indeed there is a rightist plot against him, it merely shows that the foundations of power of the ruling class have grown shaky in the face of the surging liberation movement of the masses.

Since the ruling class' interests are threatened by the revolutionary mass move-

Can you imagine Carlos P. Romulo being speechless?

That is precisely the distressing situation in which the original little brown American found himself recently when he was confronted by a Chinese foreign ministry official at a social function at the United Nations.

It appears that by way of apologizing for the M.V. APTING incident, Romulo mumbled something about another ship "from the other China" being docked in Manila at the time the APTING unloaded its relief goods.

The Chinese diplomat very gently reminded Romulo that there is only one China and that this was settled by the UN long ago.

Incidentally, while apologizing at the UN for the imposition of martial law in the Philippines, Romulo was said to have parroted his master Marcos by making a reference to an alleged "Maoist conspiracy" in the country.

Again, Romulo was confronted by the Chinese official who told him China considered this an affront on Chairman Mao Tse-tung of the Communist Party of China.

"We do not interfere in your internal affairs but if the Filipino people fight for their liberation and they ask for our help, then we will extend help", the Chinese told Romulo.Ⓢ

ment, the contradictions among its different factions sharpen even more as each faction tries to maintain and consolidate its position and dominate the others. However, only that faction which can best serve the interests of US imperialism, and therefore, deserving of its support, can emerge dominant over the others.

It is pure fabrication to say that the Left is plotting Marcos' death, knowing as it does that fundamental change will not come about automatically by the demise of any single individual.

The exploited workers and peasants and the militant student-youth and the nationalist businessmen know that only through people's war will the country be able to crush US imperialism and its landlord- comprador and bureaucrat allies. This is the only meaningful revolution in our semi-feudal and semi-colonial society.Ⓢ