

LIBERATION

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'FREE AND OPEN DEBATE': A BIG FRAUD

A systematic campaign of deception to mislead and coerce the Filipino people into ratifying a constitution that legalizes a fascist dictatorship is now in full swing.

After witnessing how a Malacañang document disguised as a "new constitution" was rammed through the convention halls, the people are now glibly assured by Marcos of "free and open debate" about the merits and demerits of this sham charter.

Apparently not content with this calculated gesture, the dictator bends a little more and dramatically "suspends the effects of martial law" to invite full participation in the coming plebiscite.

The full import of this cunning piece of deception can never be underestimated. Marcos vainly seeks to hoodwink the entire nation into endorsing and legalizing a dictatorial regime by projecting a semblance of free and democratic choice in a situation

where the word of the dictator reigns supreme over that of the ballot.

After his ruthless usurpation of absolute power, Marcos now commands the people to obey the new rules he has unilaterally drawn up and which he alone can change and revoke at will to suit his purposes and the interests of American monopoly capital and the big landlord-comprador class.

Indeed, how "free, democratic, and untrammelled" are our choices and options under martial rule?

Thousands of political prisoners continue to be detained and persecuted for their political beliefs and militant opposition to fascist rule. Why are they excluded from the New Society's much vaunted arena of "free and open debate"?

The oppositionists and dissenters are promised access to the mass media so that



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they can ventilate their objections to the proposed charter. Is it not a fact, however that Marcos personally owns a vast media network and controls and subjects the rest to an ironclad censorship which makes of the dictator and his censors the final and sole arbiters of what is worth publishing, broadcasting, and viewing?

One has only to follow the distortion of the opposition's views by the Marcos owned and controlled media to realize the impossibility of "free and open discussion" under martial rule.

The fascist dictatorship assures "free and unrestrained discussion" but forbids at the same time, "seditious and inflammatory statements." What constitutes seditious and inflammatory statements and who shall determine them?

Is one being seditious when he argues that the Transitory Provisions of the proposed constitution in effect, legalizes and perpetuates ad infinitum the dictatorial rule of the incumbent president?

Is one being seditious when he exposes the fact that Article XIV on the National Economy and Patrimony of the Nation amounts to a total sell-out of our birthright -- our natural resources and national wealth -- to foreign monopoly capital?

The fascist dictatorship calls for a non-partisan approach to the proposed charter and thus conveniently proscribes political parties and mass organizations from the campaign. And yet Marcos openly mobilizes all the resources of the dictatorship, the bureaucracy, the media, and the military, in a massive campaign to forestall the rejection of the sham charter.

The protestations of Marcos about ensuring "free, open, and unrestrained discussion" of the plebiscite under conditions of

martial rule only serve to accentuate the indubitable fact that today our basic democratic and civil rights have come to a complete standstill.

The exploited worker who is denied his basic right to strike is not free.

The exploited peasant-tenant who for generations, slaves for his landlord in the vain hope of acquiring the land he tills is not free.

The nationalistic Filipino businessman who cannot prosper because of the massive concessions and privileges given to foreign capital is not free.

The student, intellectual, and artist who lives in perpetual fear of military surveillance and outright arrest is not free.

The campaign of deception and coercion that the fascist dictatorship has launched against the Filipino people is a sure sign of weakness. The dictatorship is clearly compelled to unleash this vile plot as a vain response to the vigorous mass resistance to martial law and the irreversible trend towards the rejection of the Marcos constitution.

And this is the real reason for the postponement of the plebiscite. Having failed to intimidate the people, the US-Marcos dictatorship hopelessly bides for a new lease on life as it intensifies its campaign of terror and deception and plots once more to frustrate the people's will on the plebiscite.

When the Filipino people Vote No to the Marcos constitution, they shall have resisted once again the charlatans in our midst, unmasking those pretending as the doctors of our sick society, to be in fact, the disease. ●

Same 'Tuta' With A Different Collar

The oldtimers remember it rather dimly, but recent developments have served to sharpen their memories.

The time was the early 1940s. The country was under the rule of Japanese economic and military expansionism.

Together with their Filipino collaborators, the Japanese military rulers embarked on a venture to have the Filipino people accept a "new society".

There was the usual appeal for love of country and people. There was the call for the acceptance of a "new life" of discip-

line, bereft of the corruption of the old. There were projects to mobilize the youth to help carry out the objectives of the new order.

There were, too, the marching songs. "Iwaksi natin ang nakaraan, yakapin ang bagong buhay." went one.

To give the military regime a semblance of mass support, there was established the Makabayang Katipunan ng mga Pilipino, or MAKAPILI for short.

It was inevitable. Before long, the MAKAPILI was unmasked for what it was -- an

organ for espionage and betrayal, and an instrument for the enforcement of decrees, instructions and general orders of the Japanese and their Filipino puppets.

The oldtimers recall that the MAKAPILI members included such unsavory characters as informers, opportunists, and ambitious officials of the puppet bureaucracy out to impress their masters.

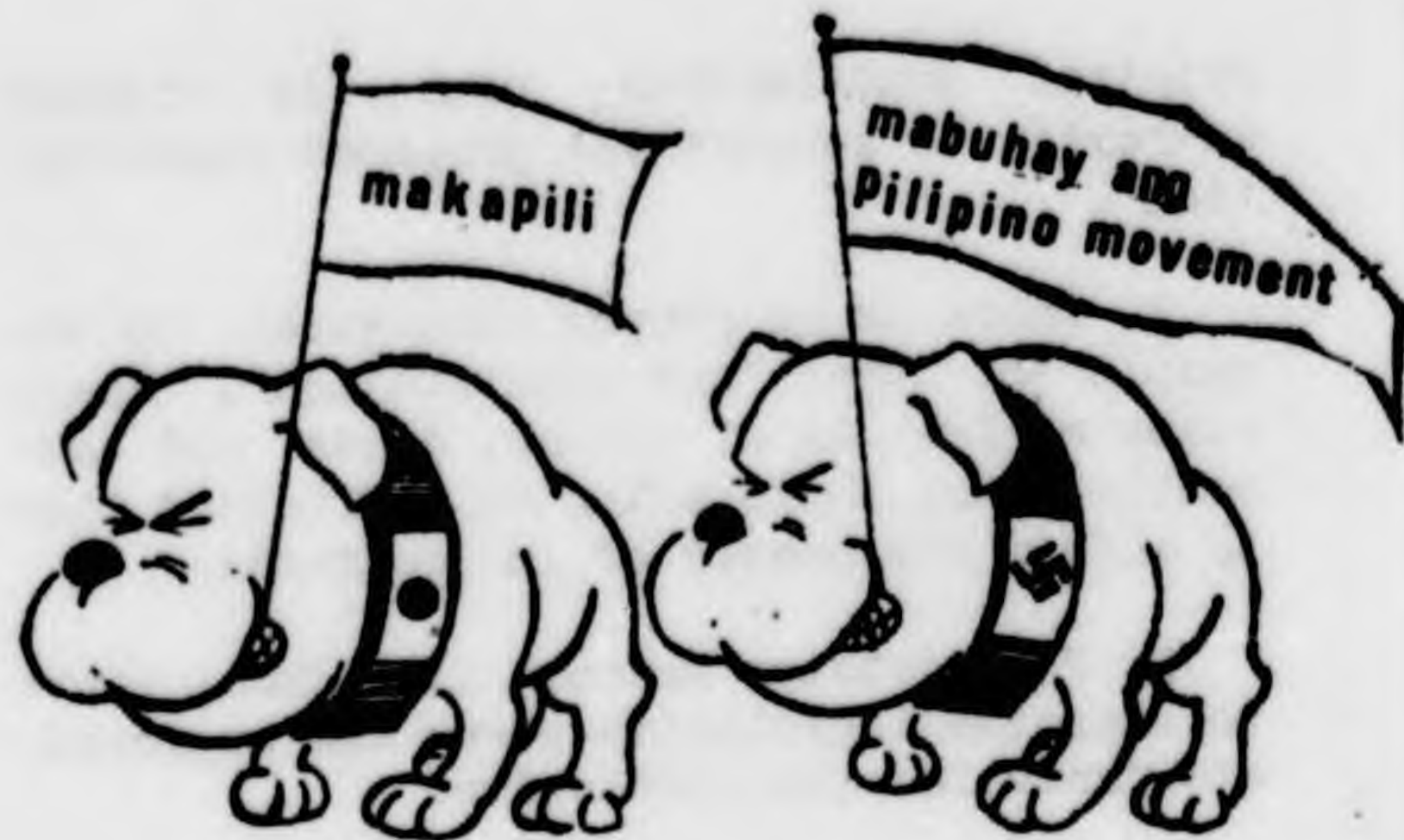
Complementing the MAKAPILI was another group called Kapisaanan sa Paglilingkod sa Bagong Pilipinas, better known as KALIBAPI, whose leadership and members included big landlords and comprador-bureaucrats.

The KALIBAPI expanded its following by forcing the participation of civic groups and associations of women, the youth, businessmen and others.

It was part of this association's functions to encourage the teaching of the Japanese language, and to disseminate propaganda favorable to the Japanese militarists and their local stooges.

What evokes memories of the despised MAKAPILI and the KALIBAPI among those who were around during the Japanese occupation is the recent inauguration of the "Mabuhay ang Pilipino Movement" by the US-Marcos dictatorship.

Like its counterpart of World War II, the US-Marcos "movement" includes civic and professional groups which have been coerced by the cocked gun that is martial law into



participating.

As in World War II, there is the deceptive appeal for patriotism, the call for a new life of discipline and order.

Like the KALIBAPI, the US-Marcos "movement" has a marching song that is played every little while in the Marcos-controlled broadcast media.

If there is remembrance today of the KALIBAPI and the MAKAPILI, it is because of the negative examples that the people have derived from their brief, albeit pompous, existence during the Japanese occupation.

In their wisdom, the masses know what the "Mabuhay ang Pilipino Movement" is all about. They know that in due time, it will be remembered by the people only for its negative examples, like its predecessors of World War II. ●

SUPREME COURT ASKED TO JUNK MARCOS CONSTITUTION

The constitutionality of the projected plebiscite on the Marcos constitution has been questioned in at least 10 suits filed before the Supreme Court.

The principal grounds cited by the complainants were that the convention that drafted the "new constitution" was not a free one, and that there can be no free determination on the part of the people in an atmosphere of martial law.

Among these petitions was that filed by civic leader Charito Planas.

Through her lawyer, Ramon A. Gonzales, she filed the complaint early December but neither this nor the other petitions now pending in the Supreme Court was given publicity by the Marcos-controlled media.

This appeared to be a measure of the US-Marcos dictatorship's sincerity, or more precisely the lack of it, when it announces with a lot of fanfare that there are to be "free and untrammelled discussions" on the "new constitution".

Named respondents in the petition for prohibition with preliminary injunction were the Commission on Elections, the national treasurer and the auditor general.

In asking the Supreme Court to issue an order stopping the plebiscite, which the dictator had originally set for January 15, 1973, Miss Planas pointed out that:

1. The constitutional convention, after the declaration of martial law, "is not a free convention as contemplated under the

original constitution, hence is without authority to approve the proposed constitution".

2. There is no proper submission to the people of the "new constitution", there being no freedom of speech, press and assembly, and there being no sufficient time to inform the people of its contents.

3. The dictator Marcos is without power to exercise legislative power and appropriate funds for the plebiscite.

4. The convention exceeded its power, which was confined to amending the existing constitution, by declaring valid all acts of the dictator under martial law, and even his acts not yet in existence.

5. The convention exceeded its power by constituting its members who voted to approve the transitory provisions, as members of the new Assembly, and the dictator as President and Prime Minister concurrently, under the "new constitution", without benefit of an election.

Citing Philippine and foreign authorities on jurisprudence, Miss Planas and her lawyer called the Supreme Court's attention to the fact that upon his imposition of martial law, the dictator Marcos ordered the arrest of delegates identified with the Opposition.

They cited Delegates Teopisto Guingona, Napoleon G. Rama, Jose Mari Velez, E. Voltaire Garcia II, Bren Guiao, Alejandro Lichauco, Jose Nolleto, Natalio Bacalso, Ernesto Rondon, and Jose Concepcion, Jr.

The Monday following martial law, they went on, Delegate Augusto Kalaw moved for the suspension of the convention's session since it was not a free assembly. The motion lost "obviously because fear gripped the Opposition in the convention in view of the arrest of the...delegates", they added.

Regarding the requirement of proper submission to the people, Miss Planas and her legal counsel pointed out that there can be intelligent consent only when there is freedom to give such consent.

"...How can one vote freely when the fear of arrest hangs like a sword of Damocles over his head?" they asked. "If Senators Aquino and Diokno can be arrested, why not a lowly voter?"

They also disputed the "free and public discussion" assured by the dictatorship which was circumscribed by a warning that such discussion "shall not in any manner tend to cause disorder and endanger the security of the state".

"This...is not equivalent to lifting of

martial law, nor the restoration of all individual rights under the constitution," they told the court. "...Besides, who will determine whether the discussion will not 'tend to cause disorder or endanger the security of the state'? Is it not the military? If it is, how free is the right to suffrage?"

(The military dictatorship showed a sample of what it means by "free and untrammelled discussions" when, on December 15, a truckload of Metrocom soldiers sought to intimidate a mass meeting on the constitution in University Belt, Sampaloc, Manila.)

Miss Planas concluded her petition by asking the Supreme Court to:

1. Order the Comelec, the national treasurer and the auditor general to answer, not move to dismiss, her petition.
2. Issue a restraining order enjoining them and their agents from implementing Presidential Decree No. 73, which appropriates ₱15,000,000.00 for the plebiscite.
3. Nullify Presidential Decree No. 73 and Proclamation No. 1081, which imposed martial law.●

SAVIOUR OR JUDAS?

(The following is a letter written to the editor of the Hongkong Standard, commenting on Marcos' speech before some 300 members of the Philippine Historical Society last November 28.)

Sir,

Your news item to the effect that President Ferdinand Marcos had been "guided by God" in proclaiming martial law in the Philippines made for highly interesting reading.

Mr. Marcos said he "needed the period to commune with myself and with God. I asked for signs. He gave me several signs". It was "as if I was guided by some strange greater mind".

It is incredible that in this day and age we would hear the leader of 39 million people confessing to the news media to what amounts to sheer superstition. Or could it be that Mr. Marcos, indeed, imagines himself to be the Saviour of the Philippines?

A far likelier explanation is that in an underdeveloped country such as the Philippines, where the Roman Catholic Church has reigned supreme since the time of the Conquistadores, this was a brilliantly shrewd move to ingratiate himself with the peasantry.

Whatever his reasons, the Associated Press story made for highly interesting reading.●

EX-PHILIPINO
Hongkong

PAF UNIT ROUTED IN SULU

A whole platoon of the reactionary Philippine Air Force was wiped out in Sulu in one of the major encounters between Tausog freedom fighters and the forces of the US-Marcos dictatorship.

This was one of the reports that have filtered out of Jolo, Sulu, since the Marcos military regime clamped a news blackout on all military activities in that southernmost province of the country.

The arrivals from Sulu told LIBERATION that the rout inflicted on the PAF unit was just one of the reverses which the AFP had been suffering since it embarked on a campaign of repression following the deadline for the surrender of firearms decreed by the dictatorship.

They said the Tausog freedom fighters have been using guerrilla tactics to advantage, harassing the AFP troopers where and when they least expect it, and escaping from the military's various "search and destroy" operations with the aid of the masses.

Among those who have refused to compromise with the dictatorship is Nur Misuari, former political science instructor at the University of the Philippines in Diliman, Quezon City, and lecturer at the UP Institute of Asian Studies.

In one of his trips to Manila just before martial law, Misuari is reported to have told colleagues at UP that the military had started to use germ warfare and such other weapons of mass murder as the napalm bomb in its campaign to subjugate the national minorities in Mindanao.

Misuari is now wanted by the military with a ₱40,000 price on his head. He has been tagged as the leader of a force of well-disciplined Tausogs now waging armed

struggle against the fascist regime.

Other parts of Mindanao where the national minorities have risen in arms rather than yield to the dictatorship are Cotabato, Lanao del Norte, Lanao del Sur and Zamboanga del Sur.

While the Maguindanaos, Maranaws and Tausogs were waging anti-fascist struggle, the AFP has been kept busy in other parts of the country where the masses have risen in ever larger numbers against the dictatorship.

Notable among the areas where the people's liberation fighters have inflicted telling blows on the puppet soldiers were Isabela, Central Luzon, Southern Luzon and certain parts of the Visayas.

MT. DATA, Baupo, Bontoc, Nov. 2 (Delayed) -- Eight PC soldiers were killed in an ambush carried out by a squad of NPA regulars at the highway here last Oct. 28. The soldiers, who were riding a weapons carrier, were caught completely off-guard by the people's forces who fired from elevated positions..

Just recently, Red fighters of the New People's Army dealt massive blows on the AFP in Isabela and Central Luzon in a series of guerrilla actions that has kept the fascist troops confused and demoralized.

In one of the bigger battles in Isabela, no less than 250 soldiers carrying out the AFP's "sanitizing" drive in the forests of that province were slain by NPA regulars and guerrillas.●

WHERE ARE THE TOURISTS OF YESTERYEAR?

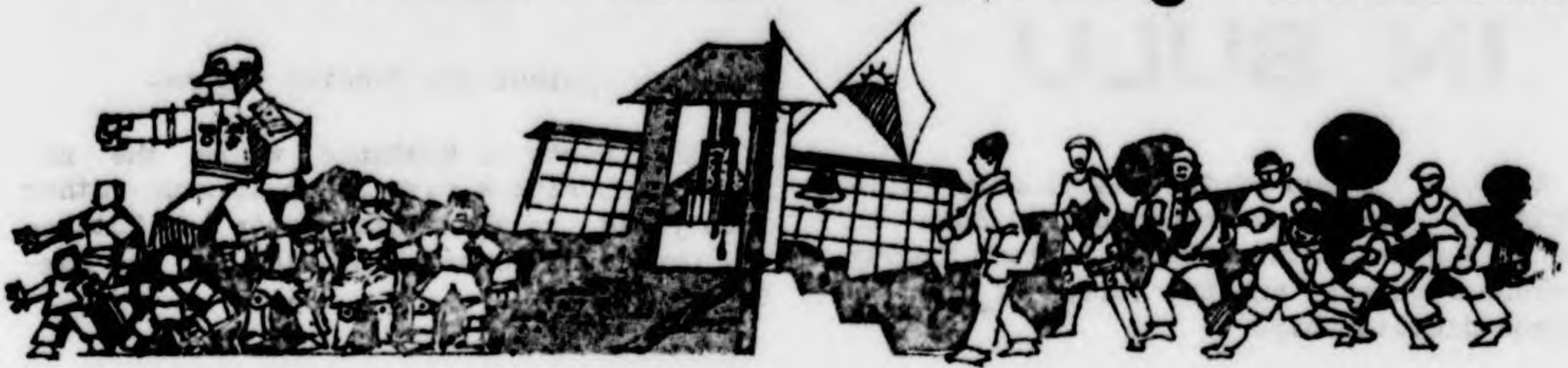
A few weeks after the imposition of martial law, foreign airlines have been effusive about the improving peace and order conditions around Manila and the apparent efficiency of bureaucrats in the MIA. In turn, the dictatorship has been gushing over the "increasing" number of tourists in the country.

The airline people, however, found out

that the easing of conditions in the MIA was not due to greater efficiency but due to the fact that there were not very many tourists coming in, contrary to the claims of the dictatorship.

In fact, two airlines -- Alitalia of Italy and Sabena of Belgium -- are distressed over decreasing sales. They are therefore thinking of closing down their offices in Manila.

Schools As Brainwashing Centers



The suppression of academic freedom in campuses throughout the country has been intensified by the US-Marcos dictatorship in its efforts to convert educational institutions into brainwashing centers for the acceptance of its military rule.

A compilation of reports reaching the LIBERATION desk indicated that no schools were being spared in the dictatorship's campaign to make robots out of teachers and students.

Some of these reports dealt with Catholic schools in Mindanao and Manila, a Protestant university in the Visayas, and the University of the Philippines, foremost of the country's public educational institutions.

Catholic Schools Harassed

The report from Mindanao said a Jesuit missionary in that region had been arrested and charged with subversion before a military tribunal, his only fault being that in the classroom, he had been critical of the dictatorship.

The missionary was charged specifically with:

1. Allegedly making students in his girl's parochial school wear "Mao suits".
2. Allegedly flying the Philippine flag red side up in front of the school.
3. Allegedly teaching the students to sing the national anthem in Cebuano.

It appeared that the missionary had translated the national anthem into Cebuano, the better for the students to understand its patriotic tone.

This reportedly was considered a serious crime by the dictatorship.

In Manila, administrators of St. Scholastica's College were ordered by the military to submit a list of activists among their students.

When the administrators said they had no knowledge of activists within their campus,

the school was threatened with closure.

What the administrators did was to put together a list of students with the notation that they had attended meetings of activists "merely out of curiosity or to accompany their boyfriends".

90 Silliman Students Arrested

At Silliman University in Dumaguete City (Negros Oriental), as many as 90 students reportedly have been arrested by the dictatorship.

A number of them were imprisoned on the strength of accusations by their opponents in the last student council elections that they were radical in their outlook.

The report said high fences now shut off the campus from the city, and that a concrete wall was being built along Hibbard Avenue which cuts through the heart of the university.

Dumaguete City oldtimers remember a time when Silliman University was insulated from burning issues of the day that galvanized the studentry in the Greater Manila area and other urban centers.

The youth of that city, Sillimanians among them, woke up to the injustices around them when powerful landgrabbers pushed their weight around victimizing small farmers in Negros Oriental.

They also got involved in activism in connection with the strike of hacienda sugar workers for higher wages and improved living conditions.

With the dictator's minions in the Education Department dictating how the university should be run, Silliman's vice-president for student affairs, Proceso Ubarde, has chosen to resign irrevocably.

UP Students Sustain Protest Movement

At the UP in Diliman, meanwhile, 27 students of the College of Veterinary Medicine were arrested by Metrocom agents and uni-

versity security men. Their crime, it appeared, was singing the national anthem with fervor.

The same "crime" was imputed to two students -- Rey Aguas and Jun Austria -- who were arrested while attending their classes at the College of Arts and Sciences.

Aguas and Austria have since been convicted by a military tribunal and sentenced to a prison term of from six months to two years.

Notwithstanding the repressions which have converted the UP into a veritable concentration camp, the campus mass protest continued to spread.

Contrary to the Marcos-controlled media's reports that "all is quiet" at the UP, implying that faculty members and students have been sufficiently intimidated, and that student activists have been capitulating, there are sporadic chantings of protest songs, silent marches, and mass singing of the national anthem.

Protest actions at the university cafe-

U.S.-Marcos Fiscal Policies Caught In Its Own Contradictions

Since the declaration of martial law, Marcos' attempts at curbing government spending have been confined to dismissing government officials and employees.

On the other hand, his "new society" gimmicks entail outlays which are beyond the present capabilities of the government. In this regard, the Central Bank is at a loss as to the financing of these projects.

Small businessmen who manage to shore up enough confidence in the future find the financial policies of Marcos more restrictive to local business than ever.

For one thing, the Central Bank has instituted tight credit, so that local banks cannot lend as much money to borrowers as they otherwise could.

Moreover, the Central Bank has restricted land purchases because such purchases are inflationary.

On the other hand, the Development Bank of the Philippines (DBP) requires a collateral of land from borrowers who ask for loans for piggeries, poultry and the like. Borrowers would have to buy land if they do not own any to present as collateral.

The DBP does not realize, of course, that if the borrower has the money to buy land, he would not have to ask for a loan in the first place.

Furthermore, loans for food production

terias also persist, with students tapping spoons and forks on the tables and food-trays and chanting, "Marcos, Hitler, Diktador, Tuta!" and "Bagong Lipunan, walang kalayaan!".

Whenever the military came up with more repressive measures, the students created new ways to register dissent and anti-fascist resistance.

For example, to protest the suppression by the military with the connivance of Major Domingo Salita, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, the students saw in the Diliman campus a graveyard of academic freedom.

They brought flowers with cards inscribed: "Alay sa Kamatayan ng Kalayaang Pang-Akademiko".

The spirit of freedom and struggle in the campuses is far from dead. In fact, with every repressive act of the US-Marcos dictatorship, it keeps acquiring fresh vitality and revolutionary zeal.●

will have to be approved by the World Bank if the loans exceed ₱5,000.

This just goes to show that the DBP-WB collusion merely reflects the US-Marcos dictatorship which is basically aimed against the people, including local businessmen.

Before martial law, the Central Bank could still request the US oil monopolies to postpone payments for the importation of crude oil and could even borrow money from US banks to beef up its reserves.



Since martial law was imposed, however, the CB has been unable to stop the US oil monopolies from remitting dollars abroad. Likewise, American banks have refused to lend dollars to the Central Bank.

Consequently, the dollar reserves of the treasury are at a record low and will continue to be depleted for as long as the US-Marcos dictatorship lasts.●



The ambitious Palace servant, Guillermo de Vega, has a new title. He is to be known henceforth as chairman of the "Board of Censors for Motion Pictures and Constitutional Ratifications".

After doing yeoman's job for Marcos as secret manipulator at the ill-starred Con-Con, it appears now that no news item may be printed by the newspapers on the convention or the plebiscite without being cleared by him.

The editor goofed. The article properly belonged in the comic section and not on page 1.

The article we refer to is that which said that Rep. Carmelo Barbero was to represent the opposition Liberal Party in the committee to prepare for the forthcoming plebiscite.

Didn't the editor know that the term "Marcos Liberal" was coined especially for Barbero?

Recently, the dictator Marcos announced that he is making his lands in Nueva Ecija available for land reform.

Marcos is now starting to make money out of the lands he grabbed from small landowners and settlers. Perhaps, only to be able to grab them back.

She is not as conspicuous as Imelda, but that does not mean that the other Mrs. Marcos -- Josefa Edralin Marcos -- is not attracted to the so-called better things in life.

POINT-BLANK has been informed that "Dona Sepa" was at the mahjongg table one afternoon when a senior teacher diffidently approached her for help in getting him named superintendent of city schools.

"Basta negosyo", the dictator's mother was supposed to have said as she left the mahjongg game briefly and attended to the caller.

The result: he became superintendent of city schools but not before making a "donation" of ₱30,000.00 to some "civic project" of "Dona Sepa". That, our dear friend, is the new name of the game.

There's a saying that one cannot teach an old dog new tricks, and this seems to fit the US-Marcos fascist regime.

A case in point is the announcement that the National Disaster Control Center had been loaning ₱250.00 each to peasants in Central Luzon.

The Marcos propaganda machine gloated that as of last November 15, it had loaned out ₱580,250.50 to 2,837 peasants in Panganga, Bulacan, Tarlac and Nueva Ecija.

Let's see... ₱580,250.50 divided by 2,837 is ₱204.50, not ₱250.00.

Where did the remaining ₱45.50 per peasant. or a total of ₱125,083.50, go? We give you one guess.

That Marcos suffers from a severe case of megalomania should now be beyond doubt.

He very grandly told the historians when he spoke before them that where his rank in the AFP is only that of colonel, he is now in a position to send generals on errands.

The dictator also said that he himself could be a general if he wants to.

Perhaps there are not enough people to sign affidavits, as in the case of 27 "by affidavit" medals?

The Pope insists that Satan is very much around, spreading his malevolence throughout mankind.

We agree. Why, his twin brother sits there by the Pasig River today, issuing dictatorial orders and otherwise making life miserable for the masses of the Filipino people.

On second thought, we take that back. We don't want to risk a libel suit from Satan.

The dictator Marcos has reportedly undergone a transformation. He has the same old greedy and schizoid personality (which is getting worse by the way), but he has a new look to go with it. This version of Bagong Anyo was executed by a face surgeon who made the dictator's facade younger-looking and smoother.

The dictator previously used make-up, but it got to be very embarrassing, it seems.

Somehow, he had to cover up his haggard look and the allergic eczema which broke out his face due to sleepless apprehension over his security.

Apparently, he sees no end to his worries, and so the facial uplift. ●