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# LIBERATION

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## PAMPANGA P.C. COMMANDER, 38 OTHERS SLAIN BY N.P.A.

Col. Ponciano Gonzales, immediate past PC provincial commander of Pampanga, died from bullet wounds inflicted by the New People's Army and not from a stroke as reported earlier in the Marcos-controlled media.

The actual circumstances surrounding the death of Gonzales were reported upon by the LIBERATION correspondent in Pampanga and by sources at the V. Luna General Hospital in Quezon City where he expired.

Gonzales died early last month. Subsequently, Camp Crame announced his replacement as Pampanga PC provincial commander.

It was in announcing his successor that the PC headquarters said Gonzales had died of a stroke "while supervising a military operation in the mountains of Hacienda Do-

lores in Porac, Pampanga".

This account of the military was carried in the state-censored newspapers and radio and television networks.

The Pampanga correspondent of LIBERATION reported that Gonzales, four other PC officers and 34 other troopers were slain in an armed confrontation with the NPA while the puppet forces were conducting one of their so-called search-and-destroy operations in Central Luzon in early February.

Gonzales, who was afield supervising the operation, was fatally wounded when the helicopter he was riding landed just a short distance from where three NPA guerrillas had concealed themselves.

The correspondent said the people's

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fighters opened fire as soon as the provincial commander alighted, hitting him, a captain identified only as Aquino, and a first lieutenant and two second lieutenants whose names were not readily available. The helicopter was destroyed.

Gonzales succumbed to his wounds later at the V. Luna General Hospital, the AFP's top medical institution, in Quezon City.

From what LIBERATION could gather, it was quite by chance that the NPA learned of the PC operation being launched in Porsac on that day.

It appeared that the three NPA guerrillas were on another mission when they spotted the military helicopter maneuvering for a landing.

They waited for it to land and for the occupants to alight before they opened fire.

Hearing the gunfire, two squads of NPA fighters rushed to the scene. It about the

same time, the PC force carrying out the search-and-destroy operation moved to render assistance to their embattled commander.

Intercepting the PC unit, the NPA fighters killed 34 more government puppet soldiers.

LIBERATION sources said Gonzales' family had been asked by the Department of National Defense to "confirm" the military's account that the top PC man in Pampanga had died of a stroke.

The effort to pass off his death as one that was actuated by natural causes was meant reportedly to prevent demoralization among other AFP officers and soldiers.

But the colonel's wife and other members of his family have confided to friends that he had died "in combat".

Independently, sources at the V. Luna General Hospital said Gonzales had died of bullet wounds and not of a stroke.●

## It's the 'bartolina' for Aquino, Diokno

Two ranking opposition senators now detained arbitrarily by the US-Marcos dictatorship are being subjected to various forms of harassment at their place of detention at Fort Bonifacio.

The two senators, Benigno S. Aquino, Jr., and Jose W. Diokno, also have been denied access to their legal counsel, prompting their lawyer, former Senator Lorenzo M. Tañada, to seek redress before the Supreme Court.

In a petition for mandamus, Tañada asked the high tribunal to order Defense Secretary Juan Ponce Enrile and the Fort Bonifacio commandant, Brig. Gen. Rafael Zagala, to allow the two senators a conference with him for legal consultations.

Tañada also asked that the conference room be cleared of electronic and bugging devices and that in accordance with law, the AFP judge advocate general be prohibited from looking over his (Tañada's) legal notes.

Aquino and Diokno had been under harassment by the dictator's military stooges since January 15, after they had smuggled out of their detention cells appeals to the Filipino people to reject the Marcos constitution and to intensify their struggle against the dictatorship.

From that day on, they have been denied access to their lawyer.

### Aquino penalized for writings

Their treatment by the military went from bad to worse when a "situationer-memo" written by Aquino came out in a three-part series in the Bangkok Post February 21, 22 and 23.

On February 21, the day the first installment of Aquino's "situationer-memo" came out in the Bangkok Post, the dictatorship went into panic.

The dictator's spokesman, Francisco S. Tatad, called a press briefing and told members of the foreign press based in Manila that there were 10 charges against Aquino.

Among these, he said, were murder, subversion, complicity in the alleged plot against the dictator, illegal possession of firearms, and concealing wanted communists and providing them arms.

"Aquino enjoys the comforts of home in his detention and receives a meal allowance," Tatad also said. "He is at liberty to receive guests and to communicate with outside parties. His claim...that he has had to smuggle his (article) to the Bangkok

Post is a little too embellished."

Tatad's statement was quoted in foreign newspapers but was censored out of the papers in Manila because the dictatorship knew that its lie would be found out soon enough.

The fact is that Aquino and Diokno were held incommunicado from February 14 to 23.

Visits, by their brothers and sisters have been stopped completely, and although their wives and children have been restored their visiting "privileges", these have been limited to thrice a week, one hour each time.

Since the publication of Aquino's series in the Bangkok Post, the two senators also have been separated and are now not allowed to talk to each other.

In the case of Aquino, his typewriters, books, newspapers, radio and television have been withdrawn, and he now has a guard in his room 24 hours a day.

Also, no charge has been filed against Aquino, who complains that he has not been questioned or interrogated since he and Diokno were arrested upon the imposition of martial law over six months ago.

Why has the dictatorship reacted so harshly towards the two opposition senators?

In his series in the Bangkok Post, Aquino discussed such national issues as the 1969 overspending by the Marcos administration which resulted in galloping inflation; the student unrest; peace and order; the dictator's break with the Lopeses; corruption and the dictator's acquisition of money, firms and lands; the Jabidah affair; the Muslim "problem"; the Plaza Miranda bombing; and the 1971 elections.

In his Newsweek statement, on the other hand, Aquino assailed the dictatorship and said he would rather rot in jail than enter into any accommodation with it.

The two senators were among thousands of opposition leaders, progressive journalists and writers, nuns and priests, peasant and trade union leaders, and leaders and members of youth and other democratic mass organizations arrested upon the imposition of martial law last September.

Aquino was secretary-general of the Liberal Party while Diokno, an independent, was chairman of the Movement of Concerned Citizens for Civil Liberties. Both were articulate critics of the Marcos regime. ●

"I am willing  
to rot in jail"



FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS FROM THE STATEMENT OF SENATOR BENIGNO S. AQUINO, JR., WHICH WAS PUBLISHED IN THE AMERICAN NEWSWEEKLY MAGAZINE, NEWSWEEK, IN ITS ISSUE OF MARCH 12:

"A week before that fateful Sept. 23 weekend, I exposed 'Oplan Sagittarius', the master plan for the Marcos rule and seizure...

"'Oplan Sagittarius' also had a companion, 'Operation Double-Strike', which outlined the psychological build-up to set the Filipino mind to accept martial law. Firstly: the army (and the Philippine Constabulary) to circulate allegedly captured New People's Army documents which called for bombings and assassinations. This was done in July and August. Secondly: to stage what were to be pictured as NPA terrorist bombings, preferably with nobody getting killed or hurt. This happened in August and September. Finally: to assassinate some leaders in government and prominent people in the community. It never came to this.

"What I am saying is: the whole operation was scripted and planned to the last toothpick.

"But has Marcos really taken the people's measure? No, far from it. Let the kids tell you: by the way they have so courageously staged their silent protest marches and operated underground papers. Let the military tell you: by their shocking AWOL rates and by the defections of officers and men. What Mr. Marcos has done, I dare say, is to plant the seed of his own destruction.

"As for myself, this is now my 110th day

of captivity. Through all these days, I have never been questioned, interrogated or talked to by any of my captors. I'm informed, however, that Mr. Marcos is readying me for a military tribunal. I'll be set up as an 'example' — to cow the other leaders who remain unflinching in their opposition to the Marcos farce, the Marcos palace coup. Or he may offer release in exchange

for support for his new society — or exile.

"My position is simple: I am not accepting any amnesty, because I do not believe I've committed any crime. I cannot support his new society, because I believe firmly that he has violated our constitution and broken our laws.

"I am willing to rot in jail." ●

## FOUR YEARS OLD

# N.P.A. MAKES GIANT STRIDES

The New People's Army, military arm of the reestablished Communist Party of the Philippines, celebrates today its fourth anniversary with a reaffirmation of its resolute will to lead the armed struggle in liberating the nation from the clutches of imperialism, feudalism and bureaucrat capitalism.

Its growing strength and confidence have been demonstrated by its military and political gains in the past year, especially after the declaration of martial law.

In an anniversary statement published by the CPP official organ, Ang Bayan, the NPA reported in part:

### 629 AFP troops wiped out

"The area of operations of the New People's Army has increased from four provinces in 1969 to 34 provinces at present. Since last year, there has been a sharp increase in the area of operations from 18 to 34 provinces. It is highly significant that 11 of the 16 provinces newly added to the NPA area of operations are in Mindanao.

"According to a compilation of partial reports, 629 enemy troops and some 400 informers, local tyrants and bad elements have been wiped out since last year. Close to 80 per cent of enemy troop casualties were wiped out after the declaration of martial law."

During the three preceding years, the NPA annihilated some 800 enemy troops (exclusive of 900 informers, local tyrants and bad elements).

The report added:

"The New People's Army in Northern Luzon accounted for some 60 per cent of enemy troops wiped out. From June to December 1972, the hilly and heavily wooded barrios of at least twelve towns of Isabela, five towns of Nueva Viscaya, three towns of Quirino, three towns of Cagayan, along the

Sierra Madre and the mountainous barrios of three towns of Ifugao and two towns of Bontoc on the Cordillera became the graveyard of enemy troops.

"The most shattering defeat suffered by the enemy was the nearly total extermination of the 5th Infantry Battalion in San Mariano, Isabela in November 1972 where about 200 enemy troops were killed and wounded by the truckloads in a series of skilfully executed ambushes and counter-encirclements by platoon and company-size units of the New People's Army.

"Also within November 1972, several enemy platoons were wiped out one by one in the towns of San Guillermo, Echague and Tumauini in Isabela; and Diffun and Maddela in Quirino.

"The area for the annihilation and disarming of single enemy troops and squads by regular squads and platoons of the New People's Army ... has been greatly widened not only in Northern Luzon, particularly Cagayan Valley and the mountain provinces, but elsewhere in Central Luzon, Southern Luzon,



Western Visayas, Eastern Visayas and Mindanao.

### Three US security officers slain

"In Central Luzon, the New People's Army wiped out during the last year some 188 enemy troops, local tyrants, informers and other bad elements. In addition, it killed three US security officers, thus placing at 25 the total number of US military personnel killed by the New People's Army during the last four years.

"The striking capability of the New People's Army outside of Northern Luzon is well demonstrated by the annihilation of the Pampanga PC provincial commander, to-

## Program for Genuine Land Reform

After years of neglecting and oppressing the country's peasant masses, the US-Marcos dictatorship grandiosely proclaimed a "land reform program" in an effort to project itself as the champion of the toilers in the countryside.

In panic, the fascist regime launched this "program" as a "cornerstone" of its rule upon finding out that the peasants all over the country were rallying to the genuine land reform program which is the main substance of the national democratic revolution.

In a past issue (LIBERATION #5) we have dealt elaborately on the big deception of the US-Marcos "land reform program" which requires the tenants to pay for the land and at a prohibitive price at that.

To enable the reader to make a comparison between the US-Marcos sham program and the land reform program being implemented by the New People's Army, LIBERATION has undertaken to research and report upon the latter.

This revolutionary program, which is based on the experiences of the NPA in carrying out land reform, is contained in the pamphlet, "Revolutionary Guide for Land Reform," released by the Communist Party of the Philippines sometime ago.

The essential goal of this land reform program is the free distribution of land to the tillers who have no land or who do not have enough land (poor and lower-middle

gether with 38 enemy troops at Porac, Pampanga... and likewise the annihilation of the Camarines Sur assistant provincial commander, together with nine enemy troops last January."

The NPA reported that it had been able to post one victory after another because it has the support of the masses in the areas where it is operating.

It was able to forge close links with the masses because it is ever conscious of its task to serve the masses, it added.

In this, the NPA went on, it had been laying stress on carrying out the agrarian revolution and setting up local organs of political power among the masses.●

peasants). This provides its most striking contrast to the US-Marcos "land reform".

### Minimum and maximum goals

The minimum goal of this land reform program is the reduction of land rent and the elimination of usury while its maximum goal is the free distribution of land to poor and lower-middle peasants.

The New People's Army has been implementing these in varying degrees in some parts of Northern Luzon, Central Luzon and Southern Luzon. Reduction of land rent is the most widely implemented in these areas with the mobilization of the peasant masses supported by the armed strength of the people's army.

In areas where the peasants have been tempered by mass struggles and where the people's army has mustered sufficient armed strength as in Isabela and Tarlac, the confiscation of land, especially from big and despotic landlords and its free distribution to the peasants are being implemented.

Landlords who support the people's government and its land reform program shall be allowed to keep their personal facilities and industrial or commercial business, or a piece of land equivalent to that of a rich peasant provided they shall till it.

Where land confiscation is not immediately realizable, land rent is reduced to only ten per cent or less of every net crop. (Net crop is arrived at after all ag-

gricultural costs incurred by the tenant have been deducted from the gross crop.)

The prevailing practice of landlords throughout the country is to exact land rent from the tenants ranging from 30 to 50 per cent of the crop. In most of these cases, the tenants are made to shoulder all the agricultural costs which include seedlings, plowing and harrowing, planting, irrigation, fertilization, pest control, harvesting and threshing.

Rent reduction to ten per cent of the net crop therefore gives the peasants a greatly increased income and a better livelihood. To some extent, they are relieved of the economic burdens and difficulties which have been their way of life for generations.

### Elimination of usury

Under the land reform program, usury shall be eliminated by four methods: by encouraging the peasants to have savings; by making the peasant associations function as cooperatives to accumulate savings and other income; by limiting rates of interest to simple interest of six per cent per annum; and by cancelling all unjust debts and recomputing old debts at the simple interest rate of six per cent.

Usury is practised by landlords in various forms. The most prevalent is that of imposing an interest rate ranging from 100 per cent in three months to 50 per cent per month in cash or its equivalent in the ten-

ants' crop share.

Usury shall be further prevented by not allowing any profit or interest on the agricultural costs shouldered by the landlord and reducing rent on work animals and farm implements owned by the landlord. Any form of tribute (labor, menial service, fees) usually given to landlords, shall be prohibited.

In landed estates operated on a capitalist basis (like haciendas), it is the goal of the land reform program to improve the wage and living conditions of the farm workers. Workers' unions shall be formed and democratic rights shall be exercised among the farm workers. Ultimately, these landed estates shall be taken over by the people's government.

In frontier areas, peasant associations shall be set up among poor settlers and national minorities to look after their welfare, foster cooperation and combat feudal and semi-feudal exploitation. Unity and mutual understanding shall be developed between the settlers and the minorities. They shall be assured of the homesteads or lots that they cultivate.

Landgrabbing of any form shall be prohibited and violators shall be subject to punitive measures by the people's army.

These are the salient points of the CPP land reform program being implemented by the NPA. They do provide a stark contrast to the US-Marcos "program". ●

## ON THE FOURTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NPA

Bernabe B. de la Sierra ●

Kasama, the fascists have whitewashed the walls,  
thinking they could erase the scrawl spelling doom  
for U.S. imperialists and their puppets.  
They have set up CLEAN signboards,  
lined the streets with flowerpots,  
and hourly play marches, declaim jingles  
that could firm up the turd  
on which dictator Marcos stands.

But, kasama, feel the white heat of silence  
in factories and fields, in slums and alleyways.  
The oppressed no longer speak in public squares.  
In thirty-four provinces today, the New People's Army  
thunders out their call to arms.

And listen, kasama. . .  
The wretched of the earth sing out:  
"We have dared to struggle, and win we will!  
Those who beat us down have mercenaries  
who are soon decimated, having only  
their guns, generals and paid-for lives.  
Ours is an army that multiplies  
in ambushes and open encounters,  
for the greed of the ruling class  
has plowed up the land and turned up  
the violated and the hungry and the desperate,  
who have sprouted guns and PSR and resolute wills  
and brought forth revolutionaries and  
an army that grows on and on and on!"

# EDITORIAL

## A salute to the N.P.A.

We join the rest of the Filipino masses in extending revolutionary greetings to the New People's Army which commemorates today its fourth anniversary.

It was just four years ago that the re-generated, reoriented and reestablished Communist Party of the Philippines founded the NPA to serve as the vanguard in the armed struggle for national freedom and democracy.

In those four years, the NPA has proven itself in the military as well as political spheres as the true guardian of, and fighter for, the people's national and democratic interests.

Expanding by leaps and bounds in its numbers and in its areas of operations, the people's liberation army has broken out of all the "encirclement and suppression" campaigns of the AFP and has dealt massive blows on the forces of US imperialism, feudalism and bureaucrat capitalism.

Today, with a full-fledged fascist regime imposed on the people, the NPA is carrying out with greater vigor and determination its tasks in guerrilla zones and guerrilla bases where it not only wages armed struggle but sets up the people's government.

Such zones and base areas may be found in Northern Luzon, Central Luzon, Southern Luzon, Eastern Visayas, Western Visayas, and, with greater impact in recent months, in Mindanao.

With its growth and expansion, and its development as a fighting force in the process of rigorous revolutionary struggle, the NPA has been confronting the fascist regime's counterrevolutionary violence with revolutionary violence.

A measure of the US-Marcos dictatorship's utter isolation and desperation in the face of the people's war is its recent decision to implement what it calls the "Kamagong concept" whereby the youth would be conscripted and compelled to serve as mercenaries in the AFP.

Raw recruits are to be thrown into the battle against the NPA and other anti-fascist forces, thus making of them veritable cannon fodder who will suffer and die in



the pay of the people's oppressors and exploiters.

That the fascist regime will be able to coerce and intimidate some of the youth to serve in the AFP we have no doubt.

But like Lt. Victor Corpus and Lt. Crispin Tagamolila, and those who are in the Corpus-Tagamolila Movement in the AFP, these youth at the first opportunity will train their guns on the people's enemies and join the true people's army.

If the NPA has succeeded in carrying out its tasks and in rallying people from the various sectors of Philippine society to its ranks, it is because it is absolutely dedicated to struggle in the service of the people.

In carrying out its tasks, it is guided by three main rules of discipline, namely:

1. Obey orders in all your actions.
2. Do not take a single needle or piece of thread from the masses.
3. Turn in everything captured.

In addition, Red fighters have eight points of attention, namely:

1. Speak politely.
2. Pay fairly for what you buy.
3. Return everything you borrow.
4. Pay for everything you damage.
5. Do not hit or swear at people.
6. Do not damage crops.
7. Do not take liberties with women.
8. Do not ill-treat captives.

For as long as the NPA pursues with dedication and resolution its revolutionary tasks, and observes the foregoing rules of conduct, so long will it expand ever wider until it completely surrounds the cities from the countryside and proceeds to drive the last nail in the enemy's coffin.

We salute the Red fighters! ●



## Palaka o tuta?

Perhaps we should take seriously what Fr. Jose Cruz, SJ, "has to say" about the dictator:

Fr. Cruz, who now heads the Ateneo University, spoke words of warning when he addressed a meeting of religious groups recently.

"We must be careful because President Marcos wants to get hold of everything....," he told his audience.

Fr. Cruz should know. After all, he is the dictator's father confessor.

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At a meeting in Malacañang at which the reshooting of "Bagong Anyo" was discussed, the dictator's wife said she wanted some changes in the already fancy attires of some of the models.

Petulantly, couturier Pito Moreno said, "Ay, Ma'am, the textile manufacturers give us only their old stocks so it is not 'Bagong Anyo' but 'Iamang Anyo'."

Madame's response was immediate. "Get a truck and tell them to pick up all the materials needed from the factories," she commanded. "Those who refuse to give, send them to Crane."

She was kind enough not to have the textile manufacturers summoned and shot on the spot.

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If you still have any doubts about the military's clout under the present dispensation, get a load of this.

A woman wanting to travel abroad saw a well-placed public official of her acquaintance and asked for assistance in securing travel papers. The official tried to oblige but he was told it was "absolutely impossible".

Learning the facts of life, she next approached a general. Request granted.

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Children of the urban poor who gather around the only television set in our block, sometimes to the consternation of the owner, have developed some partiality

to some of the "new society" commercials.

One such commercial for which they have developed a liking is the one with the classroom scene where, under serious discussion is the escapade of 10 little frogs swimming up and down and in circles.

We have observed, though, that the children in our block confuse the "new society" slogans either because of their tender age or, as the military might conclude, they have a tendency to be "subversive".

"Kahit ano ka pa," the children chant after every session in front of the TV set, "palaka o tuta..."

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While on the subject of television, a friend tells us that on one noontime program a few days ago was a boy named Ronnie, son of businessman Hilarion Henares, Jr.

It seems that Ronnie, from his account on TV, was on the road one evening. He swears it was way before the midnight curfew. But he got arrested anyway and brought to the military camp.

"Don't depend on your watch, not even on radio time," Ronnie said sarcastically. "If you want to be certain about what time it is, call up Camp Crane and ask them."

Careful, lad. Remarks like that could be rumormongering.

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There is an underground paper which avowedly gives its readers "the stories which they kept from us".

Responsible for the publication, according to what passes for the editorial box, are Hans Tatad as publisher, Roberto S. Benedicto as chairman of the board, and Primitivo Polotan Valencia as columnist.

Among the paper's pet peeves, in the order they are enumerated in one column item, are "Marcos, Imelda, Kokoy, Romulo, Tatad, Collantes, Fanny Lim, Helen Benitez, Ponce-Enrile, Andy Cruz, Doroy Valencia, the army..."

Messrs. Hans Tatad, Roberto S. Benedicto and Primitivo Polotan Valencia can bet their last ream of newsprint that the dictator will want them to register their mimeograph machine.