

LIBERATION

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Marcos bribery cannot shake us, MNLF leader says

The Marcos regime's tactic of trying to weaken the Muslim liberation struggle "by winning over surrenderees through bribery and corruption is bound to fail, according to Nur Misuari, chairman of the central committee of the Moro National Liberation Front.

"If Marcos thinks he can shake the Bangsa Moro Revolution through bribery and corruption, he is deceiving himself," Misuari said in a statement in the maiden issue of *Mahardika*, a publication of the MNLF.

"The Moro National Liberation Front and its military arm, the Bangsa Moro Army, are too formidable a force to be shaken by the betrayal of a few dregs...", the MNLF chairman said.

Misuari, a Tausug and a former political science instructor at the University of the Philippines, said Marcos is even "indirectly helping" the Muslim cause, since "traitors are a liability to any revolution".

The separation from the liberation struggle of the surrenderees--called "returned rebels" in the media and "balikbayans" in the South--was described by Misuari as a "purification of the rank and file of the masses of our people".

"(The traitors') removal would
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WORKERS DEMAND RIGHT TO STRIKE

MANILA — One of the country's biggest labor federations has demanded the restoration of the workers' right to strike.

The demand was made by the Philippine Association of Free Labor Unions in an "omnibus resolution" addressed to President Marcos.

The resolution was adopted by over 120 labor union leaders repre-

senting PAFLU and independent unions in a meeting last Jan. 20.

Besides calling for the restoration of the workers' basic right to strike, which has been suppressed along with all other civil liberties since the imposition of martial law, the PAFLU resolution also raised the following demands:

- 1) Emergency allowances of at least ₱50 for private and government workers;
- 2) Reactivation of the Minimum Wage Commission to conduct studies in order to fix a higher minimum wage for industrial workers;
- 3) Imposition of export control to insure adequate domestic supply of basic commodities and to prevent price spirals;
- 4) Relaxation of taxes on imported necessary commodities to prevent high prices of items not produced in sufficient quantities locally;
- 5) More representatives from labor and consumers to take part in the Price Control Commission; and,
- 6) Fixing of maximum profits and the percentage of profits available for a company's expansion in order to give workers a just share from company profits.

The resolution's seventh point was the demand "To totally restore
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Two pastors arrested

Rev. Toribio Cajuat, pastor of the Highway Hills Methodist Church, and Rev. Cesar Taguba of the United Church of Christ, were arrested by military intelligence, according to reliable sources.

The two Protestant ministers, picked up in separate incidents a month ago, are still being detained without charges by the military.

Rev. Cajuat was arrested right after delivering the meditation be-

fore a group of civil libertarian pastors at Ellinwood Church in Malate, Manila. He was taken away in full view of his colleagues.

A graduate of the Union Theological Seminary and head of the Methodists' Board of Church and Society, Cajuat was reportedly close to a group of pastors that sent open letters to Marcos asking for the restoration of civil liberties.

Rev. Taguba, on the other hand, was reported missing around the
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Flash

Lanao PC chief slain by his men

The PC provincial commander of Lanao del Sur, Col. Espiritu, was killed in ambush March 26 by Muslim soldiers under his own command, according to reports reaching LIBERATION.

Col. Espiritu was ambushed in Baloc-1, located between Iligan and Marawi City. No further details were available at presstime. ©

Pass on after reading

Jolo priest — tortured by military

ZAMBOANGA CITY (BMP) — Fr. Primitivo Hagad, parish priest of Jolo, Sulu, was arrested on Feb. 20 and brutally tortured by military intelligence agents.

Fr. Hagad, an Oblate missionary known for his work among the poor of Jolo, has been detained in a concentration camp here since his arrest, with no charges having been brought against him.

In an account published in the Bangkok Post by John Jacob Rents, Fr. Hagad related:

"February 20th -- While on the way to work...an army lieutenant and two enlisted men came...and told me that the military intelligence wanted me for questioning.

"February 21st -- I was brought to the roof of the Notre Dame College building which was occupied by the army. I was blindfolded and as soon as I arrived they started working on me -- box, slap, kick, pistol and rifle butts, etc. Some prisoners were subjected to electric shocks. Questions were shot at me, not in order and asked by different persons. I was still blindfolded. They wanted me to answer 'yes' or 'no', which I did not. This only made them madder. Questioning ended at about 6 p.m. and I was brought back to the provincial jail. I was afraid to drink the coffee offered me at the jail for fear it was drugged. As a result of the beatings I suffered, my whole body ached for more than three weeks.

"February 23rd -- At about 7:00 a.m. four of us were made to sign 'statements' but not allowed to read them. At about 5 p.m. I was taken handcuffed on board an LST for the 10-hour trip to Zamboanga City."

Detention camps in Zamboanga and Jolo are filled with political prisoners. About 70 percent of those arrested, including women, are tortured "so they are forced to confess or sign accusations for things they did not commit, or know nothing about", Fr. Hagad said.

Fr. Hagad's account contradicted claims by martial law authorities, particularly Defense Secretary Enrile, that clergymen in Sulu were being persecuted by the Muslim rebels.

Enrile even alleged that Catholic nuns were raped by Muslim guerrillas. This was vehemently denied by the nuns themselves. They said it was in fact the rebels who led them to safety during the fighting in Jolo. ©

WORKERS...

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the right of workers to declare strike when all other avenues of settling disputes have failed in order that free collective bargaining becomes effective and meaningful".

Meanwhile, the PAFU's education and research department said in the federation's Information Bulletin that the suppression of the workers' right to strike under martial law has made it difficult for the unions to protect their hard-earned social benefits.

The PAFU union leaders noted that "collective bargaining was more effective when the right to strike was still exercised by the workers". ©

MNLF... (From page 1)

in fact accelerate (the revolution's) tempo and hasten its triumphant march to victory," the MNLF leader explained.

In the same statement in Maharidika, Misuari also pointed out that the genocidal campaign of the dictatorship in Mindanao has caused the death of thousands of innocent civilians, but it has strengthened the determination of Muslims to resist.

"Our people will not succumb," Misuari declared. "They will hit back. Indeed, they are hitting back with all their might. As a result, several thousands of the finest soldiers of Marcos and his colonial government have already paid for their crimes." ©

2 PASTORS...

(From page 1)

middle of March. Military authorities finally admitted placing him under detention after repeated inquiries by his church and the National Council of Churches of the Philippines (NCCP).

Taguba was reportedly brought to Camp Olivas, Pampanga, and later to Baguio City. He is still being held incommunicado.

Taguba is a graduate of Silliman University and has been involved in church work among the national minorities of Mountain Province.

The officials of the NCCP have resolved to petition for the speedy release of the two pastors.

Meanwhile, the militant Christians for National Liberation denounced the arrest of the two as evidence of the dictatorship's intensifying suppression of civil liberties, including religious freedom. ©

Marcos planning another farce - Delegate Gillego

Marcos is planning to convene the interim national assembly to create the impression of normalcy and put up "democratic" institutions. His real purpose is to prettify his fascist image before the world and to continue legalizing the crimes committed by US imperialism against the Filipino people.

This is the gist of the statement of Bonifacio Gillego, 1971 Constitutional Convention Delegate, on the reported plans of the Marcos dictatorship to convene the interim assembly.

Gillego said that on top of the agenda of the assembly will be "a vote of confidence for the dictator, the continuance of martial law as a necessary instrument for economic development and for laying the foundations of the 'new society' and the revalidation of all his proclamations, orders, decrees and acts, i.e., added incentives for foreign investments, increase in external indebtedness, ratification of the Japanese treaty, oil price hikes, etc. All these are really unnecessary but the US-Marcos dictatorship has to maintain the facade of democracy in the face of the growing restiveness of the masses".

In the statement entitled "Interim National Assembly—Another Palabas, Another Deception" and circulated by Kabataang Makabayan, the former delegate said, "... the US-Marcos dictatorship saw to it that only those who would completely toe the fascist and imperialist line would become members of this puppet assembly".

Under the "new constitution", members of the interim assembly would be composed only of the members of Congress who would express to the Comelec their option to serve in the assembly within thirty days of the ratification and the Com-con delegates who voted in favor of the "Transitory Provisions".

These provisions, Gillego said, "are tantamount to a grant of absolute power to one man, an absolution of his past crimes, and a license to continue further crimes against the people—truly unprecedented in constitutional history".

Gillego, who comes from Sorsogon, was one of the Com-con delegates who consistently campaigned against US political and economic control of the Philippines and exposed the Marcos regime's servility to US imperialism. Upon the imposition of martial law, he joined the underground resistance movement and has since been sought after by the Marcos dictatorship. ©

Armed revolution will defeat armed counterrevolution

To give the readers a fuller view of the assessment of the national situation by the New People's Army, **LIBERATION** is reproducing a major part of an editorial statement published in **Ang Bayan**, official organ of the Communist Party of the Philippines. The statement, "New People's Army Celebrates Its Fifth Anniversary", was published in the March 29 issue of the CPP publication.

A protracted people's war is called for in a semicolonial and semifeudal country like the Philippines. The countryside is the widest possible area of maneuver for such revolutionary warfare. This is where the enemy is relatively weakest, especially at well-chosen points. The New People's Army is therefore firmly applying the strategic principle of encircling the cities from the countryside over a protracted period of time during which victories in battles of quick decision are accumulated and strong rural bases are steadily built in preparation for nationwide victory.

The people's army is still in the period of strategic defensive. But within this framework it takes the initiative of wiping out the enemy forces piece by piece and in increasing numbers in tactical offensives undertaken to its certain advantage in the countryside. Staking most or everything in military assaults against the cities or the main fortifications of the enemy now is premature and gives the fascist puppets and their imperialist masters the biggest chance for defeating the revolutionary forces.

Contrary to the claims of the U.S.-Marcos dictatorship, the backbone of the popular armed resistance has not only remained unbroken but has become even stronger. In fact, the spokesmen of the fascist dictatorship have been forced in many instances to admit that armed revolution has intensified and expanded since the imposition of martial rule....

(The New People's Army) has fighting units in the Cagayan Valley, Ilocos and mountain provinces, Central Luzon, Southern Luzon, Eastern Visayas, Western Visayas and Mindanao....

Other armed forces have sprung up in various parts of the country. There are the Bangas Moro Army and the Muslim Revolutionary Forces which are fighting for the right to

national self-determination and democracy among the national minorities in Mindanao. There is the Philippine Freedom Fighters...interested in guerrilla warfare and coup d'etat, fighting for the overthrow of the Marcos fascist gang. Many local power groups are secretly organizing armed units in order to hold their ground against the fascist atrocities of Marcos henchmen. Within the reactionary armed forces, there are already serious splits reflecting the struggle between Marcos and his political rivals.

Under the direction of the Party, the New People's Army constantly seeks alliances and coordination with all anti-fascist forces and promotes the disintegration of the reactionary forces. It staunchly supports the call of the Preparatory Commission of the National Democratic Front for workers, peasants, teachers, students, journalists, businessmen and all those in the middle strata, the national minorities, patriotic political leaders and religious leaders, antifascist soldiers in the reactionary armed forces and overseas Filipinos to unite in working for the overthrow of the U.S.-Marcos dictatorship under the 10-point programme of revolutionary action.

There is no peace but there is graver turmoil created by the dictatorial regime of the U.S.-Marcos clique. It is more than ever clear to the broad masses of the people that only a democratic armed revolution can do away with the fascist armed counterrevolution. They have become more outspoken, more militant and more combative, instead of being cowed by the suppression of national and democratic rights through such fascist devices as mass arrests, mass detention, forced evacuations, massacres, assassinations, arson, torture, blackmail, extortion and the like....

At the back of the military and police operations of the Marcos fascist gang are stepped-up U.S. logistical support, the U.S. military bases, the Joint U.S. Military Advisory Group, C.I.A. agents in the A.I.D. and various agencies of the reactionary government and, of course, the special attention given to the Philippines through the notorious butcher of Indochina, Ambassador William H. Sullivan. Under the cover of "joint civic action exercises" several U.S. special forces teams have been dispatched



to various parts of the country, inside or close to guerrilla zones of the New People's Army, in order to conduct reconnoitering and psychological operations. Also the A.I.D. and the Peace Corps are intervening openly in local areas. Indeed, U.S. imperialism is acting true to form as the instigator and mastermind of the Marcos fascist dictatorship.

In exchange for U.S. imperialist support, the fascist puppet chief-tain Marcos has laid out for the benefit of foreign monopolies (especially American, which now has \$2.0 to \$3.0 billion in direct investments and the biggest share out of the \$2.5 billion foreign loans) the Marcos constitution and other decrees which allow the unrestricted plunder of the human and material resources of the country and the unlimited remittance of super-profits in a manner exceeding that granted by the Laurel-Langley Agreement and the Parity Amendment. The fascist dictatorial regime is shamelessly touting its puppetry to foreign monopolies as its most brilliant achievement. Its "open-door" policy towards foreign investment is robbing the people of their social wealth at an accelerated rate unprecedented in Philippine history. Even the Japanese Saibans have been able to get the long-frozen unequal "treaty of amity, commerce and navigation".

The so-called trade surplus is the result of overexploitation of the country's primary products, copper concentrates and the like) for the much-cheapered U.S. dollar and also the understatement, be-

(Continued on page 4)

Charade on Laurel-Langley pact

The Laurel-Langley Agreement, which in the past 20 years expanded US imperialist economic privileges in the Philippines granted by parity rights, expires on July 3, 1974.

The expiry of this agreement would have been a welcome event, were it truly what it should be — an end to a highly unequal economic relationship. But the US-Marcos dictatorship has seen to it that it will not be so. As things stand now, US imperialism has gained many more privileges in one-and-a-half year of martial rule than in the preceding 18 years. The martial law regime intends to preserve and expand these new privileges further.

Thus, on paper the Laurel-Langley Agreement will be allowed to pass away peacefully. But in reality it will continue, and with a much expanded scope.

Adding insult on the Filipino people who bore the injuries inflicted by the unequal agreement, the US government and the puppet Marcos regime are now playing a charade. They are trying hard to fool the Filipino people with dubious assurances that after so much recriminations economic relations between the two countries will "for the first time... be based on mutual respect and dignity". They talk of a new trade agreement in this light.

But as in the case of the RP-Japan treaty of amity, commerce and navigation, another unequal treaty "ratified" by Marcos early this year, the fascist regime has failed to cite in concrete terms how the Philippines' national interests will be protected under a new RP-US trade agreement. It is a guessing game for the people, when all along the US and RP governments know the answers. Secrecy and deceit are the rules of the game.

Last April 3, US Ambassador William H. Sullivan condescendingly admitted before Filipino businessmen that RP-US relationship after World War II was a "classic old colonial relationship". He justified such relationship with the excuse that his government had assumed the duty of "shielding" the Philippines from communism and providing it with the "needed cushion" in its transition to economic independence.

Sullivan dovetailed such admission with a pompous assertion that the US government has done its duty and is now set to "abolish colonial control" under the so-called Nixon Doctrine.

Echoing the position of his mas-

ter, the Marcos regime has likewise asserted it will not seek an extension of parity rights. But the regime's assertions are shamelessly negated by its actions.

Prior to imposing martial law, the Marcos regime conducted preliminary negotiations with the US government for a new treaty to replace the Laurel-Langley Agreement. Through the Virata-Braderman talks in 1967, the regime committed to extend "national treatment" to Americans. "National treatment" is only a rehash of parity rights.

In accordance with this commitment, US corporations set up under parity rights have since taken steps to "Filipinise" by reducing American equity to 40 per cent in conformity with the constitution. As "Filipinised" firms, these US corporations now enjoy "national treatment" — or equal treatment as Filipino nationals and firms. They are now expanding their holdings by setting up "joint ventures" and 100 per cent subsidiaries, or by buying substantial equity in established Filipino concerns, including banks. The Investment Incentives Act and the Export Incentives Act, both passed by the Marcos regime under US imperialist dictation, have facilitated this unprecedented expansion of American holdings.

Under martial law, the US-Marcos dictatorship further boosted the expansion of US imperialist economic power here by adopting an "open-door" policy towards foreign investments. All foreign capitalists are now attracted to invest in the country with assurances of unlimited freedom to repatriate their profits and capital and of freedom from expropriation.

Thus, as the Laurel-Langley Agreement approaches its expiration, the Philippine economy is falling much deeper into the clutches of US imperialism. It is the height of irony — indeed, of insult — that Ambassador Sullivan now boasts about the supposed US policy of "abolishing colonial control" over the Philippines.

The puppet Marcos is quick to pick up the game of his US imperialist masters. Prating over such glossy terms as "self-reliance", "independence" and "dignity", Marcos now talks about how strong the Philippines has become under his leadership, and how the U.S. is having lesser and lesser options in Asia.

With this charade, the Marcos regime and US imperialism are deceiving no one but themselves. ©

NPA... (From page 3)

cause of rampant technical smuggling, of heavy expenditures for the importation of noncapital and luxury goods. The so-called favorable balance of payments is the result of falsified figures for the so-called trade surplus and for receipts on invisible transactions (especially bloated figures for income on tourism), stepped-up foreign investments and foreign borrowings and understatement of amortizations made to the foreign monopoly banks.

The tax burden is becoming more and more onerous. This is to maintain a corrupt bureaucracy and an even more parasitic military and to raise counterpart funds for foreign loans. Corruption persists at all levels of the reactionary government but the new development involves the monopolization of big graft by the Marcos fascist gang, now that there is no longer a Congress and a two-party system for checking and sharing the spoils. The fascist military is repeatedly bribed with wholesale promotions and salary increases, huge special allowances, and control of vice operations. Both counterpart peso funds and foreign loans serve merely to build up the business operations of and infrastructure for the foreign monopolies and the reactionary classes, especially the Marcos fascist gang.

Rapid inflation and currency devaluation, food and fuel shortages and depressed income are the common lot of the broad masses of the people under the fascist dictatorial regime of the U.S.-Marcos clique. Rapidly rising prices, the most striking manifestation of the local economic crisis, are generated by both the crisis ridden imperialist countries, especially the United States, and the fascist puppet regime which engages in overexportation of raw materials and accelerated deficit spending on the military and on uneconomic but showy projects. The U.S. oil companies, with the collaboration of the Marcos fascist gang, have been extremely notorious in making superprofits on one-year oil stocks available in the country at the outbreak of the October war in the Middle East and have repeatedly pushed up the price levels of all basic commodities in the country. Due to overexportation, the range of food shortages has been extended from grain to many other commodities and has raised the cost of living to a point that starves the broad masses of the people.

The main trend in the general situation in the country is in favor of the people's struggle for national liberation and democracy.