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MOBILIZE

THE PEOPLE IN THEIR MILLIONS AGAINST THE MARCOS DICTATORSHIP!



THE PEOPLE have had five years of the Marcos dictatorship. They have been resisting it all these years. They must now deal it the hardest blows to hasten its collapse.

The Marcos dictatorship must not last a day longer. Each day that it continues is a day of untold suffering and misery for the broad masses of the Filipino people.

The economic crisis keeps on intensifying, a crisis fueled by the regime's subservience to foreign interests and its own profligacy and greed. The full brunt of this crisis is borne by the people, in the sharp increases in the prices of goods and services, in the recurring shortages of prime commodities, in the growing unemployment and underemployment, in the increasing taxation.

These must be put to an end.

The people are deprived of the most basic rights. They are suppressed whenever they exercise these rights to struggle for changes in their lives. Those who dare speak out and fight against injustice and oppression are arrested, kidnapped, tortured or massacred. Entire villages in the countryside have been subjected to burning, bombing and forced evacuation in the course of military operations against so-called "rebels". Millions face dislocation from their lands and homes as a result of various "development" projects.

These must be stopped.

The people cannot wait a day longer for the downfall of the Marcos fascist dictatorship. They are acting to halt the further rampage of this tyrannical and rapacious regime.

There is no doubt that they will succeed.

REVOLUTIONARY STORMS ARE BREWING

So deep is the hatred and discontent of the broad masses of the Filipino people against the Marcos fascist dictatorship.

It is not hard to see which classes are flourishing under martial rule and are favored by the dictatorship. The giant U.S. and Japanese monopolies controlling the strategic areas of our economy and their native partners are reaping tremendous profits from exploiting the people's natural wealth and productive labor. The dictator has given them every means and every freedom to do so.

In turn, this small clique makes it possible for Marcos to continue his one-man rule and fulfill his greed for vast riches. The dictatorship could not survive for one day without the billions of dollars of investments, loans and aid coming mainly from the U.S. government, U.S. banks, U.S.-controlled international funding agencies and other adjuncts of U.S. imperialism.

Outside of them, all other classes in Philippine society fiercely desire the overthrow of the fascist dictatorship. In each of these democratic classes, open resistance to the abuses and impositions of the fascist regime has broken out. The resistance widens and gathers force everyday.

Revolutionary storms are gathering in the cities and in the countryside. The winds of change are sweeping all over the land.

UPSURGES OF PROTEST SHAKE THE CITY

Upsurges of protest from hundreds of thousands of workers, youth and students and urban poor are rocking Manila-Rizal, the center of the dictator's power.

Unable to cope with the ravages of inflation on their extremely low wages and to bear with the restriction of their trade union rights, the workers are pushing forward a vigorous strike movement in defiance of all fascist decrees. Each new anti-labor decree of the dictator, each suppression of their democratic rights, is answered by the outpouring of mass protest.

Only the past month, a rash of strikes and other militant mass actions has been set off by the non-implementation of the ₱60 emergency allowance in PD 1123, a concession gained through the workers' hard struggles the past years but never meant to be fully implemented by the regime's labor department and the capitalists.

Angered by five years of oppressive tuition fee hikes and the trampling of their democratic rights, more than 200,000 students have boycotted their classes and some 70,000 have joined in rallies and marches within the campuses since June this year. These struggles have drawn the strong support of the teachers and quickened their own struggles against their fixed, meagre incomes and the loss of academic freedoms.

The enthusiasm and vigor of the boycott movement contrast with the students' rejection of the Kabataang Barangay and other fascist schemes to deflect them from realizing and answering their real needs and those of the people.

Threatened with the demolition of their homes and relocation to places far from their sources of livelihood, the urban poor are resisting every attempt of the Marcos regime to implement the U.S.-funded Tondo Foreshore Urban Renewal Project and other "beautification" projects favorable only to foreign investors and tourists. Such eviction schemes intensify the hardships the urban poor already bear as a result of massive unemployment and high prices.

The strength of their people's organizations and their militant response to any move towards demolition have so far stalled the implementation of the dictator's projects.

Under the impetus of these struggles, the middle forces consisting of other sections of the urban petty bourgeoisie and the national bourgeoisie are now openly protesting the worsening economic conditions and violations of democratic rights under martial rule.

Despite the attempts of the dictatorship to get the entire church to its side, sometimes by deception and at other times by outright repression, a strong progressive section has emerged within the churches. It is rousing the support of the rest of the church people for the struggles of the masses and challenging the hierarchy to make real their professed concern for the people's welfare.

The nationalist businessmen, having lost whatever chance they have to pursue nationalist industrialization, are denouncing out loud the U.S. and Japanese monopoly control of the economy.

Members of the legal opposition, many of whom are genuine civil libertarians while others are Marcos' political rivals, voicing out their condemnation of the dictator's monopoly of power and his utter disregard for the people's rights and welfare, and their demand that martial law be lifted immediately.

RESISTANCE BECOMES A POWERFUL REVOLUTIONARY MOVEMENT

In the city, these acts of discontent and resistance from the people are flowing into one powerful movement for revolutionary change. These are being transformed into systematic and planned actions directed towards a definite program.

Since November, 1975, there have been eleven large demonstrations in which the people openly defied all fascist restrictions, aired their condemnation of the dictatorship and expressed their determination to struggle against it. In addition to these, five lightning rallies of several hundreds have also been held in the downtown streets, completely taking the police and military forces by surprise.

These demonstrations are the welding together of the various local struggles of the workers, urban poor, youth and students, church people and other sections of the petty bourgeoisie. They show undeniable proof of the people's readiness to take revolutionary action.

The reign of terror continues unabated but its effects have been blunted: militant mass actions such as strikes, boycotts, barricades, pickets, demonstrations and marches are spreading. Tens of thousands are now ready to shout in the streets. And these tens of thousands are also ready to actively defend themselves against fascist attacks. This was clearly shown last Aug. 25, when thousands of demonstrating workers, youth and students and urban poor held their ground and even fought back when the dictator's troops attacked them with water cannons and truncheons.

These tens of thousands have the support and sympathy of hundreds of thousands.

UNDERGROUND MOVEMENT DEVELOPS RAPIDLY

These open mass struggles in the city are fast developing the underground movement. There has been a five-fold increase in the forces of the underground since the beginning of the upsurge of mass struggles in late 1975.

Revolutionary mass organizations in the underground are fast being set up. Thousands are eager to join the Bukluran ng Manggagawang Pilipino, the Kabataang Makabayan, the Katipunan ng Makabayang Maralita and the Christians for National Liberation, to name a few of the sectoral organizations now being reinvigorated. Underground propaganda and organizing groups and cells of the National Democratic Front are also taking root in factories, offices, schools and communities to draw more and more people into active resistance against the fascist dictatorship.

The underground is the backbone of the open democratic movement. With its expansion and consolidation, the revolutionary movement in the city is

capable of staging even wider and more daring protest actions.

REVOLUTIONARY ARMED STRUGGLE RAGES

There is also a gathering storm in the countryside.

The revolutionary armed struggle and the revolutionary mass movement are raging more fiercely than before. Not all the dictatorship's rampage of burning, forced mass evacuations, kidnappings and massacres can stop it.

Overcoming numerous "encirclement and suppression" campaigns, the Communist Party of the Philippines and its main organization, the New People's Army, are stronger than at any time in the past and resolute in carrying forward the people's war.

The armed strength of the NPA has increased greatly from the 35 rifles and handguns it started out with in early 1969. It has, moreover, expanded nationwide, fighting in two or more guerilla fronts in each of the regions outside Manila-Rizal. With the expansion of the people's army nationwide, the enemy cannot concentrate his combat troops on one region without risking the advance of the NPA's forces in other regions.

The growth of the NPA owes largely to the broad support that it meets and draws everywhere from the people. Millions of people all over the country participate in advancing the revolutionary armed struggle, many of them entire households and even entire barrios.

Though still in the early defensive stage of the people's war, the New People's Army launches tactical offensives in which it concentrates its forces at that part of the enemy which it is sure of wiping out at a given place and time. These offensives are usually launched to seize arms from the enemy troops.

The armed struggle is bolstered by the contributions of the Moro people and their armed force, the Bangsa Moro Army. The military's recent campaigns against "MNL" bandits point to the resumption of the armed resistance in Mindanao.

The ceasefire and negotiations had demonstrated most fully to the Moro people the duplicity of the Marcos regime in answering their basic demands and its unabated desire to crush their struggle. Even if the dictator succeeds in depriving the Moro people of support from the Islamic countries, they have already enough arms and experience in the armed struggle to continue inflicting serious losses on the regime's armed forces.

Combining the armed strength of the NPA and the BMA, there are at present some 15,000 to 20,000 rifles in the hands of the people's forces.

This is what the dictatorship fears most. Because here, in the battlefields of the countryside, is where the issue of political power is being settled.

PEASANTS AND RURAL WORKERS ARE FIGHTING BACK

Contributing to and developing together with the revolutionary armed struggle is the revolutionary mass movement in the countryside.

The fascist dictatorship is rousing the anger and resistance of the peasant masses by scheming to camouflage land monopolization and land-grabbing with empty promises of land reform, and to make worse their hardships through organizations and programs like the Samahang Haysa, Masagana 99, Palayang Bayan and others.

It is inflaming the national minorities such as the Igorats of Mountain Province, to rise up by driving them away from their ancestral lands to grab the rich resources underneath or to set up "development" projects beneficial only to a few big foreign investors and big landlords.

Despite the more severe fascist repression in the countryside, mass movements against the evils sown by the dictatorship are gaining ground, particularly where the New People's Army is already in the midst of the people.

The peasant masses are refusing to pay their debts to the "asagana 99, boycotting government organizations and programs and carrying out a genuine land reform movement with the help of the people's army.

The national minorities are determined to defend their lands, sources of livelihood and culture against the destructive "development" projects of the regime. They are frustrating the attempts of agencies like the PANAMIN to divide, manipulate or terrorize their ranks.

The unrest in the countryside is also expressed in the sugar workers' burning of sugar plantations and conversion of parts of these into rice and corn lands in protest against starvation wages and forced lay-offs; in the fishermen's demonstrations against the invasion of large fishing fleets into our seas; and in the opposition of peasant communities to projects threatening their livelihood and environment, such as the copper smelting plant in San Juan, Batangas, the nuclear plant in Morong, Bataan and the Kawasaki sintering plant in Misamis Oriental.

Out of the mass movements in the city and the countryside, and the revolutionary armed struggle, the people's real political power is being built.

DICTATORSHIP WEAKENS BY THE DAY

The people and the people's forces are advancing rapidly. Their future is indeed bright.

On the other hand, the future of the dictatorship is dim. We already see it weakening by the day.

Let no one be fooled by the dictator's announcement that he will soon lift martial law, that he has embarked on an "irreversible" course of normalization. Far from being a sign of strength, the regime's "normalization" policy is a sign of its growing weakness.

The dictator attempts to show that he is confident enough to lift martial law because of the people's overwhelming support of his regime. The truth is, all the four "normalization" measures that he proclaimed sidestep the basic issues. Moreover, only a few weeks after the delegates to the world law conference left, these are even being reversed.

Curfew remains in large parts of the country, its relaxation left to military officials in the provinces, while Manila-Rizal is being threatened with a reimposition of curfew hours.

The travel ban has been lifted, but only for pleasure travellers who can afford to pay the enormous travel tax. Those seeking employment abroad and especially political dissenters still find it just as hard to leave the country.

The "general amnesty" for political prisoners is just as illusory as the recent releases of 1,000 detainees, of which no more than 30 were in the category of political detainees. It is no different, and even stricter, than the amnesty proclamation in 1973, which merely resulted in 2,000 applications for amnesty being swept under the rug. What is real is the trend towards kidnapping and murdering political suspects, as seen in the growing list of persons who disappeared while under military custody, the torture-slaying of three farmers in Laguna on the pretext that they were NPAs, the massacre of at least seven activists arrested in Manila in a fake encounter in Quezon.

The promised elections is just a reenactment of the past four fake referendums, since it will be conducted with all the fascist decrees in force and subject to the manipulation of the Marcos Comelec. But the mockery of elections will be needed for the mockery of a legislative assembly which can be dissolved anytime by the dictator and cannot change any of the decrees he made.

It is clear that the dictator has no wish to give up his autocratic rule. His recent statements are, in fact, trying to set up scapegoats like "violent dissenters" or "troublemakers" for his continued imposition of martial rule. He wishes to escape blame for the notorious and discredited performance of his "new society" the past five years.

The reality is that the dictator's "normalization" policy is a grand cover-up for the deepening crisis situation and thus for a more savage repression of the people.

ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL CRISES REMAIN UNSOLVED

How can there be normalization when the economic and political crises, which gave rise to fascist rule in the first place, are fast worsening? How can the dictator lift martial law when his regime is being exhausted and undermined by its inability to solve these crises?

The economic crisis is clearly seen in the increasing trade deficits; the mounting foreign indebtedness now reaching \$6 billion; the continuing devaluation of the peso; and the billion-peso deficits in the government budget resulting from its massive expenditures on the military apparatus and showy infrastructure projects.

The regime has continually to beg for more loans and aid from its master, U.S. imperialism, but this cannot save the dictatorship much longer. In return for more loans and aid, U.S. imperialism, through international funding agencies such as the International Monetary Fund, is exacting conditions which only serve to intensify the economic crisis. Furthermore, its ability to help its puppets is being limited by the strong opposition of the American people.

Such conditions have created conflicts between the dictator and his imperialist master. Over the past year, they have quarrelled over the price to be paid for the continued presence of U.S. military bases in the country. The policy of "normalization" is also partly in response to pressures from the Carter administration to restore some of the trappings of democracy, such as elections, to better assure the stability of U.S. privileges and investments in the country and to defuse the clamor of the American people against aid to dictatorships.

The regime is also turning for aid to other countries. But this becomes less and less available as the freedom-loving peoples of the world increasingly pressure their governments to stop aiding such a repressive regime. Propelled by strong anti-martial law movements among Filipinos abroad, particularly in the U.S. and Europe, the international isolation of the dictatorship is increasing.

Internally, the worsening economic crisis is causing splits within the ruling classes as they become dissatisfied with the division of the spoils. Marcos is bound to lose more and more of his local supporters.

The crisis also engenders increased resistance from the people as the dictatorship passes the brunt of this crisis onto them. The regime is now being rocked by the hard blows of the revolutionary movement which has grown out of this resistance.

DOWNFALL OF DICTATORSHIP IS CERTAIN

Does anyone need further proof that the downfall of the Marcos fascist dictatorship is certain and the victory of the people is inevitable?

And if we intensify our efforts to arouse, organize and mobilize the people -- not only in hundreds of thousands but in their millions -- the collapse of the dictatorship is sure to come more quickly. The country will be rid of this hated regime that much sooner.

To hope that the "liberals" within U.S. imperialism will pressure the dictatorship to change its ways is to wait in vain. To wish that the dictator will have a change of heart and share some of his power is even more of a pipedream.

Only the people, acting in their millions, can put an end to the fascist dictatorship.

These, then, are the tasks before us,

LAUNCH MASSIVE PROPAGANDA CAMPAIGNS

We must boldly expand the reach of our propaganda and agitation from the present tens of thousands to hundreds of thousands, and if possible even millions, of people.

We must remember that we are dealing with an enemy with a monopoly of the entire mass and cultural media and a tight control over the educational system. But even with less and without the sophisticated propaganda apparatus of the regime, our propaganda is warmly received and read by a people long fed up with the dictator's lies and empty rhetoric.

With our propaganda reaching tens of thousands, we have been able to mobilize the sympathy and participation of hundreds of thousands. We could do so much more if we dare to reach millions.

We must creatively use all forms of propaganda to reach the people, particularly those media which are popular with them and deliver our messages with the most impact. Revolutionary underground newspapers, mass newspapers of people's organizations, leaflets, posters, tapes, plays, comics, wall writings, murals -- we are determined to circulate these more widely, more frequently and more regularly. The circulation of our propaganda can be magnified several times if we encourage the people to pass them on from hand to hand or discuss it with their relatives and friends.

With their resources, wide influence and institutions, the middle forces can make a significant contribution to the over-all propaganda effort. In fact, some sectors among them such as the church people and the legal opposition have been among the most articulate in denouncing and exposing the abuses of the dictatorship. They have participated effectively in the anti-referendum campaigns of 1973 and 1975, in the documentation and publication of martial law conditions and in the current struggle for human rights.

But the range of their propaganda has been limited thus far -- limited to their circle of friends and associates or limited to the institutions they work in. The plan of some groups to break out of the small circulation of their propaganda and bring it to the grassroots is in the right direction. And they should not only think in terms of a few thousands, not only in terms of mere speeches and position papers. They should aim to reach hundreds of thousands and use a wide variety of forms.

CREATE THE BROADEST UNITY

It is not enough, however, to launch a massive propaganda campaign. Such a broad campaign must be directed towards creating the broadest possible unity among all the forces, classes, groups and individuals desiring an end to fascist rule. For without this unity, it is impossible to defeat an enemy with such vast resources and armed strength.

From this point of view, we see the attacks of some elements within the church and the legal opposition against the Communist Party of the Philippines and the forces that it leads, such as the New People's Army and the revolutionary mass organizations, as divisive of the people's unity. These attacks are also counter-productive in the sense that they blunt the blows against the fascist dictatorship.

It is clear to the people that the Party and its organizations are in the very midst, and in fact in the very backbone, of the revolutionary mass movement in the cities and in the countryside. They have been the most consistent in upholding and fighting for the basic demands of the people.

That they are the ones subjected to the most severe fascist repression shows how the dictatorship fears them and their growing effectiveness. And that they have survived these attacks and even expanded to a great extent shows their

determination to fight to the end and the firm support they have roused from the people.

To attack such a determined and effective force against the dictatorship as the Communist Party of the Philippines and its forces is to undermine the broad unity of the people. This holds true for other forces actively resisting the fascist dictatorship such as the Moro people and the organizations supporting them, like the Moro National Liberation Front and the Bangsa Moro Army.

A broad united front is absolutely essential to the overthrow of the Marcos fascist dictatorship. The various forces, groups, organizations and individuals genuinely committed to this have a basis of unity, although they may differ on certain issues, some tactics and some aspects of their programs.

This unity can be deepened if they work together and have a democratic discussion of their differences. There will certainly be struggles on the most effective ways of fighting the dictatorship and criticism of each other's shortcomings in this regard. But such struggles should be open and aboveboard, and firmly directed towards achieving unity.

EXPOSE FASCIST RULE COMPREHENSIVELY

Accompanying these efforts to create a broad unity, we must make a deepgoing exposure of fascist rule. Those who are sincerely committed to end not only this but all fascist dictatorships and achieve true democracy and independence for the people, should do no less.

When the people understand in a comprehensive way the evils resulting from and causing the fascist dictatorship, they will be not only desirous but determined to overthrow it. They will not be deceived by a mere shuffling of dictators and carry through their struggles until they achieve their aspirations for democracy and independence.

Simply to attack the dictator Marcos and not to expose him as the main representative of the exploiting classes, simply to attack the dictatorship and not to expose the forces responsible for it, is to confuse the people and disarm them in the event of a fascist restoration.

Such comprehensive exposures deepen the unity and resolve of the people. They are prepared to undertake a thoroughgoing and protracted struggle and learn not to be complacent with short-term victories.

PROVIDE CHANNELS FOR ACTION

The second task before us is to provide the people with various channels to express their initiative and readiness to take action. Our illegal and legal organizations should be capable of drawing them in by the hundreds of thousands.

The revolutionary organizations such as the Bukluran, Kabataang Makabayan and Katipunan are showing the way by undertaking a bold program of expansion, but not letting a single undesirable in.

Legal organizations, particularly among the masses, are also proliferating and expanding. Among these are militant trade unions, workers' alliances, community organizations, comprehensive student organizations, support groups for the people's struggle.

But still, hundreds of thousands willing to act against the fascist dictatorship are as yet unorganized. We have a lot to do.

SOLID ORGANISATIONAL WORK IS NEEDED

There is need for solid organizational work among the middle forces. It is heartening to see fiercely scattered groups and individuals within the church and legal opposition forming organizations both on broad and specific issues. In addition to the Civil Liberties Union of the Philippines, there are already the Philippine Organization for Human Rights, the Kilusang Bayan Para sa Kalayaan, the Human Rights and Amnesty for Political Prisoners Movement and others. Such a trend should be continued.

So that they do not become paper organizations, or organizations devoted merely to endless discussion of issues, they should boldly expand their membership and launch more activities that invite and draw the public. There are large sections of the middle forces that have not yet been organized. Yet from the thousands that attend seminars, symposia, forums and conferences that are critical of the dictatorship, we see their keenness to get involved in some way in the anti-fascist struggle.

Some groups within the legal opposition are already planning to organize within the very structures of the fascist dictatorship -- the bureaucracy and the military. They are in a good position to do this because they have many close links to these sectors. What is only needed is to carry out the plan vigorously.

LINK WITH THE MASSES

Apart from organizing their ranks, the organizations among the middle forces can become even more effective against the dictatorship if they support or directly help in the organization of the basic masses.

We see that there is much enthusiasm among progressive church people in giving full support to people's organizations and integrating themselves in the people's struggles. They are showing their pro-people stand in concrete actions, not merely through pronouncements or resolutions. Their efforts should be widened.

Other groups should develop close links with the masses. In a few of them, there is the tendency to form elitist groupings which exclude the masses or the participation of the masses in their plans, or which include only a few select representatives of the masses and inhibit their full democratic participation.

The mark of any group's seriousness in overthrowing the fascist dictatorship and putting a just and democratic society in its place is seen in their attitude towards the participation of the masses. Only when the masses are organized can they directly, fully and actively participate in any change which occurs and guarantee that their demands are heeded and carried out.

Any group which insists on being small and conspiratorial, unwilling to let the masses participate, is open to the suspicion that they may simply be riding on mass discontent but not willing to give the people any real power. Such groups are even prey to individuals wishing for the intervention of U.S. imperialism to preempt the victory of the people.

FORM BROAD ALLIANCES, MOVEMENTS

Like our propaganda and agitation, our organizing efforts should lead to the creation of broad alliances and movements.

In the New People's Army, the basic alliance of the workers and peasants -- the main forces for revolutionary change -- is being realized.

In Manila-Risal, the many multisectoral demonstrations and other militant mass actions in the past two years have welded a strong alliance among the workers, youth and students, urban poor, church people and professionals.

Some members of the legal opposition are calling out and urging towards a united opposition. But to be meaningful, such a united opposition should link itself firmly with the basic alliances now being formed in the cities and in the countryside.

WAGE MORE MASS STRUGGLES

Our third task is to wage and support even more mass struggles that temper the people and develop their unity and strength, and deal hard blows against the fascist dictatorship.

These mass struggles consist of workers' strikes for decent wages and working conditions and against the anti-labor policies of the dictator; student boycotts against unjust tuition fee increases and for their democratic rights;

peasant campaigns to refuse payment to the Masagana 99 and to reduce land rent and usury; urban poor rallies against demolition and for their right to employment and decent housing; demonstrations against the dictatorship itself.

It is in these mass struggles and mass actions that the people strengthen themselves. Hundreds of thousands will not just suddenly appear one day, already prepared for decisive battle with the dictatorship. To bring the people to battle without preparing and testing them is to feed them to the enemy.

There is no more concrete proof that these mass struggles have been good for the people than to look at their results.

Their legal and illegal organizations have rapidly expanded in the course of and as a result of these mass struggles. The organized forces resisting the dictatorship could not have increased five-fold in so short a time without these. Moreover, the dictatorship and the exploiting classes have been forced to backtrack in the face of the people's militant actions.

The peasants' land reform movement is breaking the power of the landlords over them. The workers' strikes are making the capitalists tremble and forcing the regime to refurbish its blatantly anti-labor policies. The student boycotts have pressured the dictator to order the freeze on tuition fee hikes.

The militant exposures and hunger strikes of the political prisoners have resulted in some releases and some improvements of prison conditions. The bold actions of the Igorots in Montafosa have held off the implementation of a dam destructive to their homes and livelihood. The armed resistance of the Moro people compelled the dictator to make a show of negotiating with them.

PREPARE FOR GREATER STRUGGLES

The fear that the people will invite and be crushed by "undue fascist repression" during and after these mass struggles has proven groundless. We need only look at our numerous experiences in the city, the very bastion of the regime's strength, where we have waged for the past two years so many strikes and boycotts and eleven large demonstrations.

It is true that no mass struggle, no mass action has ever escaped repression. But it is also true that the dictatorship cannot do as it pleases; it has so far been unable to use its full force against the open democratic movement in the city. The regime still holds on to its pretensions to "democracy". It fears international condemnation and the further loss of international support. It fears the effects of its growing isolation from the people.

It has also been repeatedly proven that repression has not at all crushed the people's resistance. They have prepared and defended themselves by building a wide and deep underground, continually consolidating their ranks and strengthening their unity. Thus, after each fascist attack, they are able to retreat in good order and rapidly expand their forces.

The mass arrests, the raids on urban poor communities, the truncheons blows and water cannons, the escalating surveillance and harassment, have achieved nothing but to fire the people to launch bigger, more organized and wider protest actions.

We must prepare ourselves and the people for greater and more intense struggles. There is no other recourse, for the irretrievable trend of dictatorial rule is towards greater and more intense repression, and certainly not towards "normalization".

The dictator will not be kind and lessen his fascist tyranny and oppression, if we promise to "behave." We can never accept the dictator's conditions that the people submit to their chains and simply wait for him to lift martial law in his own good time. For we have seen that silence and passivity merely goad the tyrant to further violate the people's rights and intensify their exploitation.

DEVELOP AND SUPPORT THE ARMED RESISTANCE

Our fourth task is to help develop and support even more the armed struggle in the countryside. Those who are for the people's final victory should realize that its only guarantee is the triumph of the armed revolution.

We know enough of the bloody record of the dictator to see that he will unleash the most vicious crimes against the people before he gives up his unlimited power and accumulation of riches. The forces behind him who instigated the imposition of martial law will also try again and again to impose the fascist tyranny which has served their interests so well.

Have we not witnessed the bloody wars of aggression and interventions launched all over the world to protect U.S. economic and military interests?

When the people have no arms, and no army, they have nothing against the Marcos fascist dictatorship and those who wish to replace it with another.

We therefore call upon those who truly desire the people's welfare and liberation to give all their help to the armed struggle against the dictatorship and its foreign and local supporters.

They can directly help by serving as combat and noncombat personnel for the armed resistance, or by conducting investigation, propaganda and organizational work in the rural areas in preparation for it.

They can contribute materials and equipment for propaganda work, arms and ammunition, medicine and medical equipment, communications facilities, clothes and other things, or funds for these.

We give our support and urge others to support the armed organizations of the Moro people, so long as these organizations are actively fighting the fascist regime. We encourage all efforts to form other armed groups.

Those who have some hidden arms should turn them over to those eager to use them in the armed resistance. The various organizations resisting the dictatorship should also try to acquire weapons from abroad, to counteract the pouring in of so many arms from the U.S. to the regime.

END THE PEOPLE'S SUFFERING SOONER

These are the urgent tasks confronting us as the fascist dictatorship completes its fifth year.

Our propaganda and agitation must reach the millions of people who desire the overthrow of the dictatorship, create the broadest possible unity among them and expose comprehensively the evils of dictatorial rule.

We should build up and boldly expand the organizations of the basic and middle forces, and assure the full and democratic participation of the masses in them, whether directly or through the forging of close links with genuine people's organizations.

It is time we formed a broad united front against the Marcos fascist dictatorship. Let us discuss and resolve all the obstacles to it.

We must wage more militant mass struggles and actions. And to be capable of launching larger and more intense struggles, we must widen and deepen the underground, consolidate our ranks and strengthen our unity.

We must help develop and support the armed revolution in the countryside to guarantee the people's final victory.

The downfall of the Marcos fascist dictatorship is sure to come. Let us do all these to hasten its collapse and end sooner the unbridled suffering and misery of millions of our brothers. The sooner the regime collapses, the sooner will the people achieve the just, democratic, free and prosperous society they dream of.

Preparatory Commission
National Democratic Front
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