

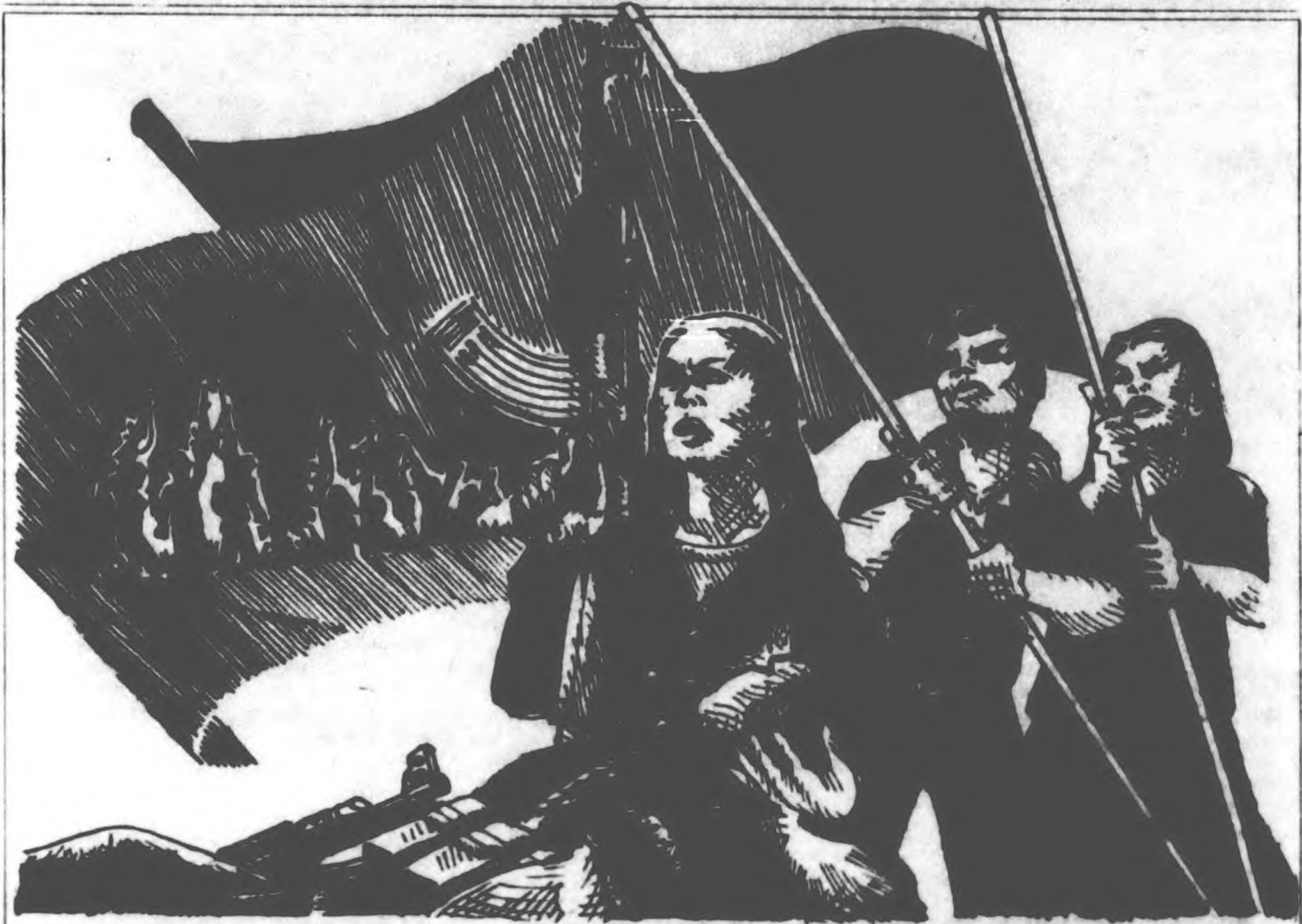
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# LIBERATION

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On the 13th year of struggle against the US-Marcos regime

**“As long as a blade of grass grows in this country, there will be people to fight the oppressors”**

To every generation is born an oppressor.

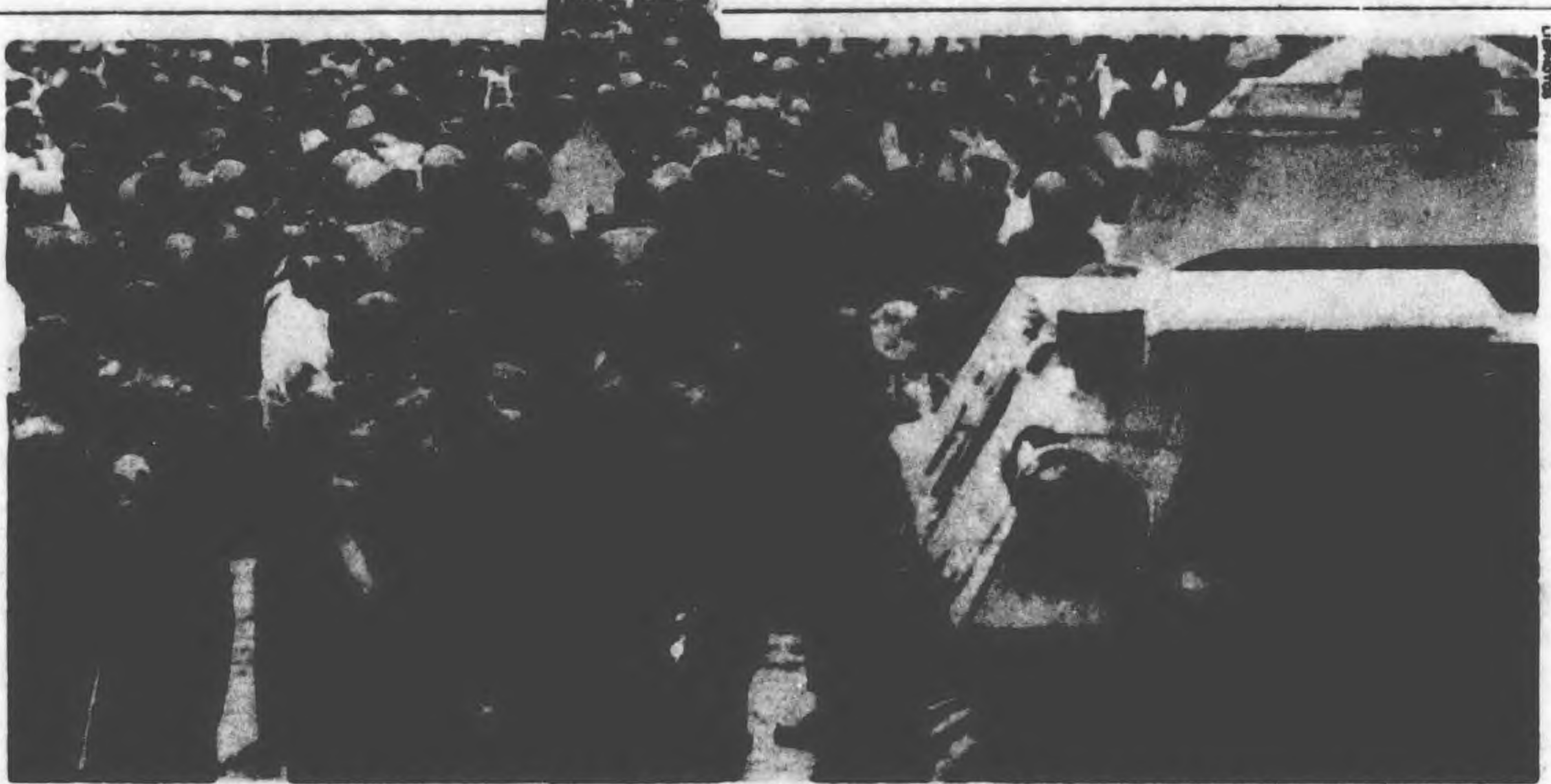
And so was it on September 21, 1972 that the Filipino people came to be tyrannized by one. In the guise of “saving the Republic and reforming society,” Ferdinand E. Marcos issued Proclamation 1081 imposing martial law in the Philippines.

Thirteen years have passed since then, and counting Marcos’ term of office since 1965, twenty years of Marcos’ rule. What has his regime got to show the Filipino people and the world today after all these years?

The Philippine situation today can be summed up in five cruel paradoxes. A nation which is formally independent but not sovereign, because of the commanding and deepening role of US imperialism in the country. A land rich in natural and human resources but where poverty, hunger and even famine are growing. A people with an abiding reverence for life, peace and justice but who are increasingly besieged by the regime’s forces of violence. A constitution which guarantees the bill of rights to all but extends this only to a privileged few. A political system which upholds the rule of law but implements the rule of one man.

**JANTE L. ANDROSIO  
KOLFKSYON**





**"As the history of martial rule has proven in the country: Violence is the essence of state power"**

In other words, what we have in the Philippines today is a fascist dictatorship, where "one party, one doctrine, one leader" hold sway. Stripped of its gilded rhetoric, the essence of this fascist dictatorship is the rule by naked armed force and open terror of a reactionary clique with big comprador and big landlord interests.

It was US imperialism that masterminded the setting up of this dictatorship in 1972 in a desperate bid to secure the economic and political interests of the US and the local ruling elite which were then being threatened by a resurgent nationalist movement. Because they could no longer rule in the old way, they had to resort to an open fascist takeover to suppress the forces that challenged the prolongation of their domination.

Since then, Marcos has ably served as the chief political instrument of US imperialism. With the consent of his master, he has arrogated unto himself all executive, legislative and judicial powers and made sure that US interests in the Philippines are not only protected but enlarged. As a reward for his puppetry, the US has allowed him to stay in power indefinitely for as long as he can be useful to them, and for as long as his ambitions do not go beyond being the general representative (the wealthiest in fact) of the big businessmen and big landlords.

**B**ut there is something providential in the fate of tyrants, and life has not at all been a bed of roses for Marcos and his US imperialist master.

Today, the regime is being battered by an acute economic and political crisis which, bad enough before martial law, is the worst ever in Philippine post-war history. Following the Aquino assassination which further aggravated this crisis, the regime's position has rapidly and irreversibly deteriorated. It continues to find great difficulty in breaking out of its defensive position of extreme political isolation.

The only thing keeping it alive are the constant injections of US economic and military aid — which in fact constitutes the very lifeblood sustaining the

tottering and bankrupt regime. This August, it got another badly needed shot in the arm from its US patron, amounting to \$70 million in military aid and \$110 million in economic aid for the year 1986. In addition, the regime has been regularly receiving assistance from US-backed international financing institutions.

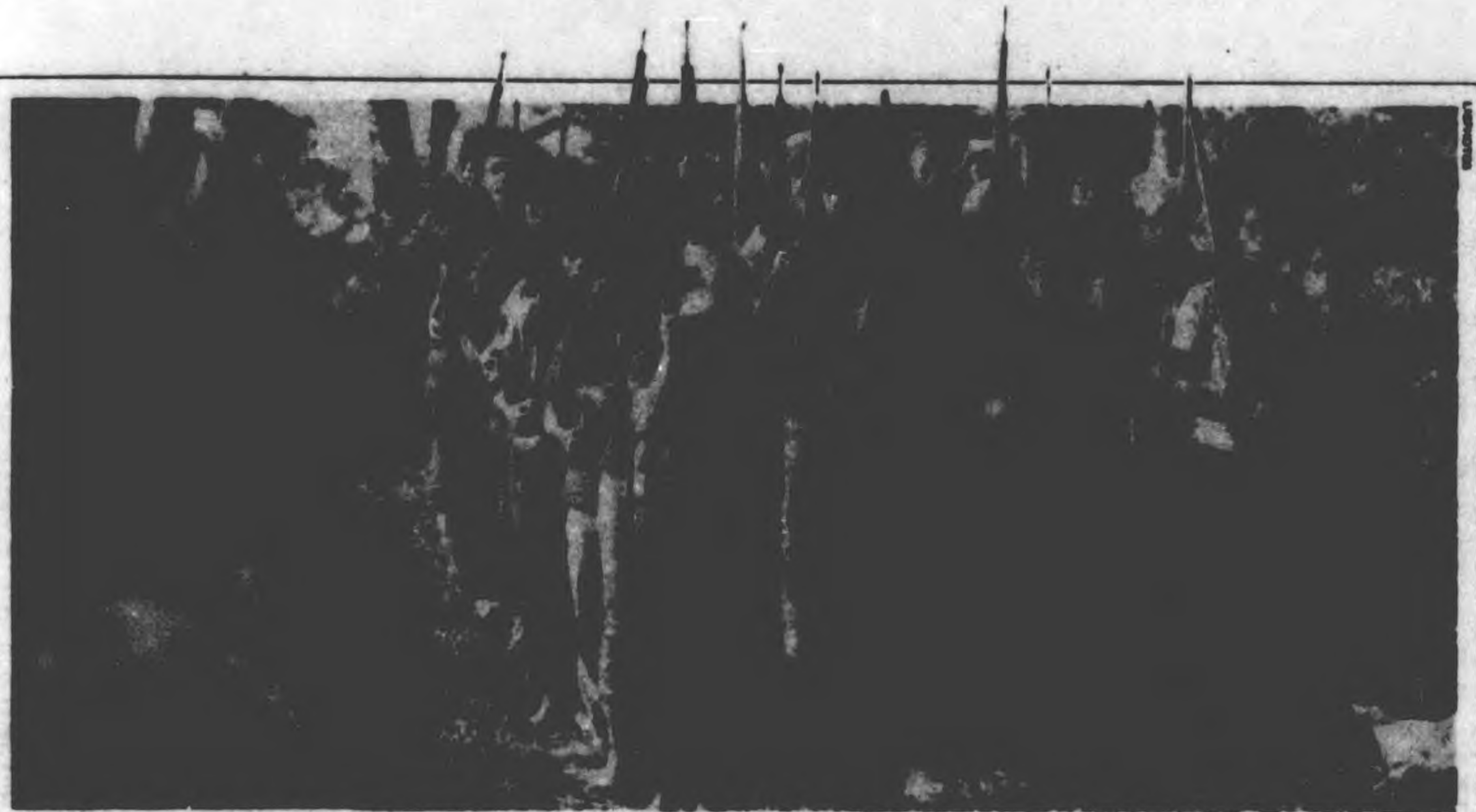
If anything, this continuous infusion of dollars and arms underscores the fact that, for all his corruption and unpopularity and for all the much vaunted US pressures on him, Marcos remains the US' chief puppet in the Philippines.

But while the regime's position has been rapidly declining, the overall anti-dictatorship movement has been steadily advancing. This is a tribute to the fighting spirit of the Filipino people which has bravely endured under martial law. As Rizal has stated: "Revolt and revolution have always occurred in countries tyrannized over, in those countries where ideas and the human heart have been forced to remain silent."

Today, the people's war in the Philippines marks its 13th year against the US-Marcos dictatorship, with significant gains won through many years of hard struggle and sacrifice. On the revolutionary armed front, the New People's Army has gained greater strength, due to the ever-increasing support of the peasant masses and other sectors in the countryside and urban areas. Its guerrilla forces, numbering 82,000 (including part-time fighters), are now spread throughout the land in 59 guerrilla fronts in 56 provinces.

On the open mass movement front, democratic protest actions, propelled by the intensity of the people's anger following the Aquino assassination, have likewise surged forward. Boosting its ranks are workers and businessmen, peasants and lawyers, students and teachers, church people and professionals, and even members from the upper rungs of society. Since the assassination, over 80 percent of the adult population of the country have in some way or





**NPA forces: "Against the unjust violence of the oppressor is the just violence of the oppressed"**

another expressed their protest against the regime.

On the international solidarity front, the protest actions of support groups in the United States, Canada, Europe, Asia, Australia and New Zealand have also contributed to furthering the struggle and the isolation of the dictatorship. Their resolute solidarity work has won significant political and material support for the Philippine struggle.

Ever since its establishment in April 1978, the National Democratic Front of the Philippines has provided the organizational framework and channel for the unity, cooperation and coordination of all these progressive and revolutionary forces fighting for national freedom and democracy. It stands committed to the realization of the democratic coalition government which will be made up of the genuine representatives of the democratic classes and sectors and their organizations, as well as all sincere individuals and groups that have contributed to the downfall of the dictatorship.

The NDF program presently serves as the revolutionary united front's guide to action and also as the cord closely binding together the diverse forces and groups in the broad anti-dictatorship movement.

**A**gainst this unprecedented upsurge of struggle on all fronts of the people's war, the US-Marcos regime has responded with characteristic violence. It has unleashed a systematic campaign of terrorism and repression against all dissenters from all walks of life, including the media and church people. Now, no longer are its military minions satisfied with the standard techniques of arrest, detention and torture; the trend of kidnaping, assassination and outright salvaging has become the rule today rather than the exception. Such blatant suppression constitute but more proof of the innate violent character of the US-Marcos dictatorship.

Ever cunning and devious, Marcos and US imperialism are also presently hatching schemes to disrupt the people's unity, in the guise of attacking the "communists." The apparent purpose is to isolate the

progressive forces, split the broad anti-dictatorship movement and arrest the increasing militancy of the opposition, while they themselves "sit on top of the mountain and watch the tigers fight." Some legal oppositionists and political organizations — blinded by rabid anti-communism and misguided by some clerico-fascists and other reactionary elements in their midst — have unfortunately fallen into the regime's trap.

But even as Marcos has been working to sabotage opposition unity, he has not yielded an inch of his political power to them. He continues to tighten his grip on all instrumentalities of the government, including the military. In preparation for the forthcoming elections, he has packed the Comelec with his own subalterns. He has appointed a known Marcos loyalist to head the Supreme Court. He continues to keep the sham parliament under his thumb, using the KBL's sheer tyranny of numbers to defeat the opposition's impeachment bid. To cap it all, he is presently engineering the serialized whitewashing of the Aquino murder trial, paving the way for the eventual acquittal of his chief hatchetman, Gen. Fabian Ver.

These latest moves of the US-Marcos dictatorship should serve notice to those who still harbor illusions about the possibility of peacefully replacing Marcos. Those who would hope for US intercession in this matter hope in vain. It was US imperialism that installed this regime in the first place and it is US imperialism that until now, enormously benefits from it. For as long as Marcos continues to serve them well, and without any viable political alternative to him at the moment, the US will allow him to remain in the saddle of power.

Those few who actively peddle the idea of fighting the dictatorship solely within the latter's own legal battleground, wittingly or unwittingly, lend support to the US-Marcos dictatorship. In fact, they undermine their own position by allowing the dictatorship to lead them by the nose with such blandishments as snap elections and empty promises of a reformed military.

The sincere elements within the legal opposition



— and they comprise the majority — are well-advised to choose their own field of battle in fighting the regime. This, they can do through their active unity and coordination with the militant open mass movement, including the armed struggle that is growing steadily throughout the country.

As for those few who actively engage in attacking organizations and forces that espouse revolutionary violence, they should realize that a sincere commitment to social change cannot completely rule out the use of revolutionary violence. This is because, as the history of martial rule has proven in the country, violence is the essence of state power. Violence is the main instrument wielded by the US-Marcos regime to assert its dictatorial rule and suppress all aspirations and moves for meaningful change.

Against the unjust violence of the oppressor, it is perfectly correct, necessary and just for the oppressed to wage revolutionary violence. To deny this to the people is to disarm them and render them defenseless before an enemy armed to the teeth with US-supplied weapons of destruction.

In this regard, we call to read the memory of a martyred leader of the NDF, who marks his third death anniversary this September 20. He is Edgar Jopson. The story of his life and struggle offers rich insights on revolutionary transformation and has much to inspire others who are earnestly seeking the true path to liberation.

By birth and education, "Edjop," as he was called by comrades, could have been among the privileged few, but he chose to cast his life with the many. Beginning his political involvement as a "reformist," a "moderate" student leader, his close contact with the masses and with daily scenes of poverty, exploitation and injustice soon awakened him to the pervasive reality of violence in Philippine society. He began to realize that the authentic liberation of society lay not in mere reforms but in fundamental changes in socio-economic structures.

In the second year of martial law, he left his home, his family and a comfortable life to join the revolutionary underground, convinced that armed struggle was the most effective way to bring about basic social changes. For daring to act out his convictions, on September 20, 1982, he was killed by the regime's soldiers during a raid on his underground house in Davao City.

To every generation is born a hero like Edjop. Philippine history stands proud to have nurtured many other Filipinos like him who felt impelled to express their patriotism by taking up arms against the dictatorship at the risk of their own life. They are the most formidable foes of the regime.

On the occasion of the 13th year of struggle against the US-Marcos dictatorship, the National Democratic Front salutes all these Filipino martyrs. We urge the people, especially the legal opposition and some political organizations, to draw lessons and inspiration from their revolutionary life. Let their courage, their dedication and unswerving faith in the people serve as our beacon in the fight to overthrow the dictatorship and establish the democratic coalition government.

The NDF also calls on the entire Filipino people,



"The enemy is in our midst — US imperialism"

including patriotic Filipinos abroad and international solidarity groups, to take this opportune occasion to reaffirm their unity and commitment to the struggle for national freedom and democracy in the Philippines. We call on them to resist and expose all divisive moves designed to sabotage the broad anti-dictatorship movement. We urge everyone to rally behind the advancing people's war and to promote all positive forms of struggle — armed and non-armed, illegal and legal, secret and open — that will hasten the dictatorship's downfall.

As the US-Marcos dictatorship enters its 14th year of existence today and as our revolutionary struggle swings toward another year, let this be our battlecry:

"As long as a blade of grass grows in this country, there will be men and women to fight the oppressor."

NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC FRONT  
September 21, 1985