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EEI workers persist in strike

ARMED with their unity, organization and discipline, the striking workers of Engineering Equipment, Inc. have continued to defy for the past two months the combined repression of government-military-management forces. They are now poised to raise their struggle to an even higher level.

FLASH!

Watch for the next issue of LIBERATION about the successful rally staged by 1,200 workers, urban poor, students and religious last June 12 at St. Joseph's College, Quezon City to mark bogus Independence Day.

Last March 29, some 1,000 EEI workers broke 46 years of submission to the (Turn to page 5)

MORE FROM BASIC MASSES SWELL RANKS OF POLITICAL PRISONERS

TRINIDAD HERRERA. Aling Trining to the thousands of slumdwellers in the largest conglomeration of urban poor communities in the Greater Manila area.

As the head of the Zone One Tondo Organization, she militantly led the urban poor in their day-to-day struggles for a decent and humane existence. Her boldness and daring in leading the movement to oppose the dictatorship's "development" schemes for further plunging the urban poor in misery earned the ire of the martial law government.

The fascist regime considered her a threat, branded her a "subversive" and ordered her arrest. Firm in her commitment to continue serving the cause of her oppressed brothers, she chose

to go underground. Though not visible to the state, she could move freely among the urban poor masses and allies who protected her and did not reveal her whereabouts to the authorities.

The Military Moves Against Aling Trining

LAST APRIL, her friends noticed that she was missing. They immediately launched a search for Aling Trining in the known detention centers of the regime. They did not know that the Metrocom unit, which had taken her on April 26, 1977, had changed her name to Trinidad Gerilla y Bakal so that those who sought her would not recognize it.

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INSIDE

COMMON CRIMES BLAMED ON 'SUBVERSIVES' ★ CARTER'S HUMAN RIGHTS POLICY ★ WHAT FM WANTS FOR NEGRO PEOPLE ★ EDITORIAL

Marcos blames 'subversives' for recent crimes

The fascist dictator Marcos has found another way of striking out at his growing number of critics. His regime has hatched a scheme to reduce revolutionary forces to the status of common criminals.

Last month, the captive media has been unfolding a new pattern of black propaganda against the revolutionary forces.

-- May 4. Government links arsonists, subversives to the rash of fires which hit various areas of Metro Manila recently.

-- May 18. Military investigators trump up a report that the Communist Party of the Philippines engineered the gunslaying of Manila CFI Judge Isaac Puno Jr.

-- May 27. Police probers claim they found "subversive documents" in the house of one of the suspects involved in the shooting of a former disc jockey.

Obviously, what Marcos wants to do is to discredit and stir up feeling against the revolutionary mass movement which has been in the forefront of the resistance to his regime.

Lumping arsonists and murderers together with revolutionary activists will make it easier for him to: 1) find a convenient scapegoat for the deteriorating peace and order situation caused by the increasing poverty and hardship under martial rule, and the rampant abuse of military power; 2) crack down even more on the increasing number of political dissenters.

Marcos has directed the military to list down "all persons suspected of having committed subversion." In case of a fire in a certain area, persons appearing in the list and residing in the general vicinity of the fire, will be the first to be picked up for questioning.

Specially organized for the purpose is a nationwide anti-arson task force made up of PC and integrated police personnel. It is headed by the PC Chief of Intelligence himself, Col. Emilio Melendres Jr.

MORE FROM BASIC MASSES... (From page 1)

Finally on May 6, after being given the run-around by military officials in charge of political detainees, her lawyer, Atty. Francisco E. Rodrigo Jr., and some other friends found her -- behind the barbed wire fence of the Bicutan stockade. They almost could not recognize her.

Atty. Rodrigo, in a letter of protest to Defense Secretary Enrile, described her condition:

"She was in a state of shock...haggard and emaciated; and her eyes were blank and expressionless....She hardly responded to my greetings and questions... The few statements she made were evasive and incoherent."

Aling Trining Undergoes Brutal Experience

ALING TRINING had undergone a most brutal experience in the hands of the Metrocom Intelligence Unit which had brought her to Camp Crame. After ordering her to strip, the fascists had applied electric shock on her two thumbs and on her left breast. The bluish scars on her thumbs were clearly visible.

"I can no longer stand the torture," she had said in the early days of her detention. But in a few weeks' time, she regained her spirits -- enough to
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Marcos' latest ploy further seeks to belie the charges that his government has jailed thousands of its critics without due process of law and has committed gross violations of human rights.

By muddling up political offenses with common crimes, Marcos wants to becloud altogether the category of political prisoners. This is in line with his repeated statement that there are "no political prisoners in the Philippines."

On June 3, in a speech before the Foreign Correspondents Association, he again declared: "None of these detainees is under detention for his political beliefs." (Daily Express, June 4, 1977)

The dictator will do anything to hide the increasing resistance of the Filipino people against his rule.



stand up, boldly denounce and point out her torturers, despite the fact that she was still in their custody.

The arrest and torture of Aling Trining roused such outrage around the world, that the Carter administration scurried to intervene in her behalf and the dictator was forced to release her. Soon after her arrest, she returned without any hesitation to the urban communities where she had served, and the people overwhelmingly voted for her again as the chairman of ZOTO.

Unable to stop her from speaking out against what she had suffered in the hands of the military, the Marcos regime is now threatening her once more with arrest, this time to face "criminal charges".

A Symbol of Masses' Resistance

TRINIDAD HERRERA is only one among many leaders of the oppressed masses who have been hounded, detained and tortured by the fascist dictatorship. So much support has gathered around her because she is a symbol of their plight and their resistance.

Ever since the imposition of fascist martial rule, prison camps have sprouted all over the country and political prisoners have grown in numbers, despite the dictator's claim that "there are no political prisoners in this country." In much the same way that he calls his fascist tyranny a "smiling" martial law, he refers to these prison camps as "rehabilitation centers" when in actuality they are instruments of brutality and repression.

Steeped in economic and political crisis, the fascist dictatorial regime has had to contend with an ever-growing militant mass movement in the city and revolutionary armed struggle in the countryside. The people's intensifying

hatred for and continuing resistance to the dictatorship has brought about a series of upsurges at this particular stage of the struggle. This has also bred increased repression.

In the face of such upsurges, the Marcos fascist dictatorship has gone berserk -- conducting "sonas" in worker and urban poor communities, mass arrests and indefinite detention, torture and murder. The majority of political prisoners today come from the ranks of the basic masses -- workers, peasants, urban poor, national minorities.

The Workers and Fascist Repression

MARCH 29, 1977 signalled the start of a strike at Engineering Equipment, Inc. Demanding an increase in their wages which could hardly meet the spiralling prices of commodities, and the return of unjustly suspended employees, workers at EEI braved the consequences of violating a fascist decree banning strikes.

Some 300 strikers were arrested and hauled to Fort Bonifacio by Metrocom and police troopers. The workers, not cowed by such an onslaught, slowly but surely gathered support from other factories and fellow workers, laying the ground for a more intense struggle.

. Labor Day. Around 15,000 workers, urban poor, batilyos, students, religious and other sympathizers gathered at Rizal Park to denounce the Marcos regime in separate mass actions. Fascist goons, bearing truncheons and water hoses, waded into the ranks of the demonstrators and rounded up more than 400 workers from EEI, AG&P, Mead-Johnson, PBM, Litton Mills and took them to different military camps.

Regime's Policy in the Countryside

IT IS IN THE COUNTRYSIDE where the

dictatorship has concentrated its most brutal repression of the people. Ruthless encirclement and suppression campaigns have been launched in areas where the New People's Army has taken root. More recently, the bestiality of the military has been felt in the Mountain Provinces, Central Luzon, the Southern Tagalog region, Eastern Visayas and Mindanao.

In Tarlac, during this year's "encirclement and suppression" campaign, more than 60 peasants have been massacred.

In Samar, one political activist, upon capture, was tortured and beheaded. His mutilated body was paraded to the barrio people in an attempt to terrorize NPA supporters. In Western Visayas, peasants suspected of being NPA supporters are taken along a sparsely-populated route and there, murdered.

In these areas, one is considered "lucky" if he is shown fascist "mercy" -- that means, he only has to suffer beatings, electric shocks, cigarette burns and indefinite detention under subhuman conditions.

Such brutalities in the countryside only serve to expose the fascist character of the state, the bankruptcy of the AFP and bring the NPA closer to the people. States an old peasant woman in Western Visayas:

"With the Army and the PC around, our crops either disappear or are destroyed, our chickens are stolen, our women raped. With the NPA, carabao rustlers and extortionists in the barrio disappear, land rent is reduced, our property and lives are protected -- we are more secure. Have we any other choice?"

The pattern of arrest and detention has even become part of the regime's "development" programme for the Montafiosa area. About 200 Kalingas have been detained at different prison camps in the north due to their militant opposition to the Chico River Dam Project. The Kalingas strongly oppose this scheme for it would eventually submerge their ancestral lands and destroy their culture, traditions and livelihood. Their resistance has further intensified upon their realization that their interests are being sacrificed for the interests of only a few landlords and comprador-bureaucrats, chief among whom is the puppet Marcos himself.

At present, a large number of peasants continue to languish in Camp Olivas, Pampanga; Camp Lahug, Cebu; the Bacolod Provincial Headquarters and the 332nd PC Detachment at Hinigiran in Negros; Camp Alagar, Cagayan de Oro; the PC Stockade at Davao and in other prison camps all over the country.

Their crimes: fighting for their rightful ownership of the land, fighting for their livelihood, asserting their genuine civil liberties and supporting their true army -- the New People's Army.

Batilyos, Urban Poor Defy Dictatorship

KA ANGEL and Ka Delfin. Father and son. Batilyo leaders. Now, political prisoners. Along with several other batilyos and urban poor of Bo. North Bay Boulevard-South, they were arrested when their barrio was put under a "sona" last April.

The batilyos and the urban poor of Navotas have launched a series of strikes and protest actions to resist the opening of the Philippine Fish Port, an ADB-funded Marcos-Zaibatsu scheme to deprive over a thousand batilyos of their livelihood and scores of urban poor families of their homes. Their detention has not served to dampen their ardent revolutionary spirit.

"Kahit na ikulong nila tayo, libo pa ang papalit at magsusulong ng makatarungan nating adhikain. At maging dito sa piitan, ating yayanigin pa ang nanginginig nang tuhod ng pasistang pamahalaang ito." (Though they lock us up, thousands will take our place and advance our just aspirations. And even in prison, we will continue to shake the foundations of the fascist government.)

Bo. Tatalon residents also number among the political prisoners. With the declaration of martial law, a rich landed family, with the help of fascist goons, attempted to claim the land and force the people to leave. Time and again, the residents have launched militant struggles to assert their rightful ownership of the land.

Like most slum dwellers who have stood firm for their rights, they have been continually harassed, threatened with ejection. Their self-help community organizations have been branded "subversive" and their leaders jailed.

Recent mass arrests at Tatalon, however, were caused by the personal ven-



detta of Barangay and Kabataang Barangay officials who have been repeatedly charged with corruption and irregularities by the residents. Reporting to the military that the complainants were "subversives", these officials personally led the arrest of about 20 barrio residents.

Oppressed Masses Lead Revolutionary Struggle

MORE AND MORE from the impoverished masses are being arrested, tortured and detained. The dictator can no longer propagate the illusion that the revolutionary mass movement and the revolutionary armed struggle are led by only a handful of conspirators and outsiders who do not come from the ranks of the masses.

The fascist regime now finds itself confronting the reality that it is the oppressed masses themselves who are at the helm of the anti-fascist, anti-feudal and anti-imperialist struggle. The masses are the real heroes in the struggle.

That more and more from among the basic masses are swelling the ranks of political prisoners also means that more of them have dared to come out and defy the fascist dictatorship. In the city, they are launching bolder protest actions. This indicates a heightened political consciousness among them -- a consciousness capable of being molded into a greater force which will smash the bastion of fascist tyranny.

In the countryside, the peasants

EEL WORKERS PERSIST ... (From page 1)

company. They marched out of the factory and staged a picket before the administration building at the Mandaluyong site. They demanded a P2 wage increase and the reinstatement of union leaders and members who had been put under preventive suspension for daring to exercise their trade union rights.

The complete paralysis of production could have brought management to its knees within a few days, were it not for the intervention of the government and the military on its side.

On the first day of the strike, police and Metrocom troopers were sent to break up the picket by force; more than 200 workers were arrested and detained at Fort Bonifacio. On April 4, the undaunted workers returned to the picket line with their wives, children and

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send their finest sons and daughters to join the New People's Army. They assert their right to a just share in the harvest simply by confiscating it from the landlord, no longer by begging for it.

The fascist regime is afraid of this force. Even as it arrests thousands of workers, peasants and urban poor, it is pressured to release many of them after a short period of time.

Detaining thousands is very costly for the regime. Economically, because housing, feeding and guarding these large numbers of detainees strain the deficit-ridden government budget. Politically, because the people's anger becomes even more inflamed and international opinion increases to cut off aid to such a repressive regime.

The strong and united actions of the people themselves have effected the release of political prisoners. These actions, launched separately by various sectors, groups and individuals must now be formed into a mass movement, the broadest possible alliance of all those engaged in the defense of their human rights.

Even as the people resist the deepening of fascism, they know that they must overthrow the U.S.-supported Marcos fascist regime to win their human rights once and for all. ●

EI WORKERS PERSIST ... (From page 5)

sympathetic clergymen. On April 29, April 30 and May 1, fascist troops swooped down on the workers' communities, raided their houses and picked up 40 militant unionists.

In the meantime, labor officials kept the workers' cases tied to a protracted process of hearings.

Strikers Stand Firm

BUT THE TENACITY and determination of the strikers could not be budged. In fact, instead of dying down, the struggle at EI began to inflame workers in other factories and to rouse the sympathy of other sectors such as the students and the religious.

With such support, the strikers were able to hold out for more than two months. They had been denied of strike funds when management refused to release P36,000 of their union dues.

On the other hand, the P200,000 losses every week finally forced management to begin another round of negotiations with the workers. Even then, the workers decided to continue their struggle, to keep on strengthening their unity, for they knew that the capitalists would attempt treachery and deception at the bargaining table.

During the last week of May, the EI management had agreed to grant a substantial part of the workers' demands, including the reinstatement of almost all suspended workers. But the week after, it started to stiffen its bargaining posture, and insisted on having the right to accept only those workers whom it chose and on paying only about one-half of the backwages.

The issue of preventive suspension has been the most critical in the management-labor negotiations. EI workers place the number of those suspended at 300. Management recognizes only 128, and will allow only 61 to be reinstated. Furthermore, only 22 will receive their backwages, the amount of which management will be the one to determine.

Workers See Through Scheme

THE WORKERS immediately saw the black scheme behind the management's proposals.

"Bakit ganoon ang patakaran nila, selective basis ang pagbabalik ng mga

manggagawa sa trabaho? Dahil may intensiyon silang wasakin ang unyon. 'Yan ang doktrina ng estado at ng Department of Labor -- kapag malakas ang unyon, wasakin ito sa pamamagitan ng paghahati-hati ng puwersa ng manggagawa."

The granting of selective economic concessions is an attempt to break the workers' unity by playing them off against each other. But the workers have remained firm: "Kami'y hindi mga hudas! Hindi namin matatanggap ang kundisyon ng management."

Another issue on which the negotiations are deadlocked is the P2 wage increase. The management will not give anything more than a P1.80 raise in the daily wage.

The difference would cost management only P60,000 every year. Yet, it prefers losing P200,000 every week rather than grant the workers' full demand.

Why Management Hardened Stance

WHAT COULD BE the reason for the management's hardening stance?

A plan to answer the workers' renewed assault, after the impasse at the bargaining table, with massive fascist repression could be lying in the background.

The fascist dictatorship is terribly afraid of the growing strength of the workers' movement.

In the revolutionary school of a strike, the workers grasp their significant role in production and in society. When they stop work, production grinds to a standstill. The capitalist, with all his capital and technology, is nothing without them.

By the very nature of their work, industrial laborers are the most concentrated force in society. Everyday, in large numbers, they work systematically together. Thus, among all the classes in society, they have the strongest sense of organization and discipline. These proletarian qualities are put to the test and further honed in the process of a strike.

Workers Steel Themselves

THEY ALSO LEARN to steel themselves against starvation, imprisonment and separation from their families. Thus, they develop their capacity to shoulder sacrifices and hardship.

Furthermore, the workers learn to distinguish their class enemies, strike at the latter's weakest spots, and foil their attacks.

In the furnace of mass struggle, the workers are fast developing into a most powerful revolutionary force. They are becoming a big threat to the very existence of the fascist dictatorship.

That is why the fascist regime is marshalling its forces to crush the resistance of the EEI strikers.

Their militant unionism serves as a bold example to the rest of the oppressed working class. Strike plans are already stirring in other factories as the workers there learn and sum up the lessons from the EEI struggle.

The Only Answer to Growing Fascist Repression

THE WORKERS KNOW that the only answer to an impending fascist repression is to consolidate their ranks even more and to forge the strongest unity with other workers, and with their reliable allies among the students and the religious.

They have succeeded in rallying an overwhelming force to their side. Last May 29, more than 2,000 workers, urban poor, students and clergymen gathered at La Salle gymnasium at Greenhills to pledge their support to the EEI workers.

The workers of EEI continue to call upon all the progressive sectors of



society, especially other workers, to support their just struggle:

"Ang istorya ng aming pagtitiyaga ay istorya rin ng bawat nakikipaglabang manggagawa. Ang ipinaglalaman namin ay parehas din ng ipinaglalaman ng lahat ng manggagawa."

They also call on their allies to help them in the battle against the government-military-management collusion: "Hindi patas ang laban! Kailangan namin ng mas malawak na suporta."

In the vast network of the underground, the EEI workers and their allies are preparing for a new and higher phase of the struggle. As their struggle progresses, many of them realize the need for an armed revolution which will thoroughly uproot the unjust system under which they all suffer.

The workers' thoughts continually turn to the countryside, where they see the armed resistance led by the New People's Army, steadily advancing.

POINTBLANK ... (From page 16)

Bulaga!

Spattered on the walls of Camps Crame and Aguinaldo, respectively, were the slogans:

"Ibagsak ang diktadura!" "Marcos Hitler Diktador Tuta!"

Scrawled in green and red paint, the slogans were easily visible from EDSA.

Needless to say, the sentries who were supposed to be on guard duty that day had hell to pay from their furious fascist bosses.

Elsewhere in Metro Manila, more walls and signposts sported posters and slogans attacking the oil price increases, and calling on Filipino workers to unite and defend their class interests and their country.

At the University of the Philippines, student activists covered an entire wall in the college of arts and sciences with the MMDT slogan.

In the following days, the regime's motley group of soldiers, spies and paid rats began whitewashing the walls.

But too late the rats.

No amount of whitewash can strike out from the people's memory the challenge issued by the slogans and the bravery of hundreds of mass activists who dared to register in a spectacular manner their true feelings against the martial law regime.

Carter's Human Rights Policy

THE REALITY BEHIND THE RHETORIC

THE EXPERIENCE OF VIETNAM exacted a heavy price on U.S. imperialism. The U.S. economy suffered a massive drain on its resources which has been partly responsible for the present crisis in the world capitalist system. Furthermore, the U.S. government bore the bitter humiliation of being thoroughly defeated by the brave and staunch people of a small country.

The history of U.S. foreign policy since then has been a history of trying to avoid the cost and embarrassment of another Vietnam. Not that it has abandoned its aggressive and rapacious nature. But U.S. imperialism can no longer do what it pleases in the world today.

Internally, it faces the growing opposition of the American people to its blatant intervention in the affairs of other nations.

Externally, U.S. imperialism has to contend with steadily growing national liberation movements which are challenging the stability of the puppet ruling elites it has installed in power.

Is U.S. Imperialism Changing?

THESE CONSTRAINTS HAVE RESULTED in some changes in the rhetoric and strategy of U.S. imperialism. Such changes are leading some to say that U.S. imperialism is now divided between the "hawks" and the "doves" and that it is possible for a basic change in its objectives to evolve.

These quarters cite the "new initiatives" in U.S. foreign policy which are being taken by the Carter administration, particularly its professions of concern for human rights.

During his campaign for the U.S. presidency, Jimmy Carter pledged that his administration would "take the lead in establishing and promoting basic global standards of human rights".

(The material from this article was drawn from Ang Katipunan, newspaper of the Union of Democratic Filipinos; Philippine Liberation Courier, newspaper of the International Association of Filipino Patriots; and The Logistics of Repression and Other Essays, a publication of the Friends of the Filipino People.)



The Democratic Party platform on which he ran stated: "The United States should not provide aid to any government -- anywhere in the world -- which uses secret police, detention without charges and torture to enforce its power."

At one point, Carter even called for the withdrawal of the 16,000 U.S. servicemen in the Philippines and the 42,000 G.I.'s in South Korea.

But Carter's "human rights" stance began to crack as soon as the heady campaign days were over. Particularly when it came to applying such a policy to "traditional allies" like the Philippines where U.S. imperialism has \$4 billion worth of investments and key military bases.

Last January 3, the U.S. State Department, upon pressure from the U.S. Congress, released a report conceding that the repressive political climate in the Philippines has encouraged violations of human rights. It could not do otherwise, considering that the widespread and air-tight documentation and coverage of torture and other violations of human rights by the Marcos fascist dictatorship.

But the report tried to gloss over the regime's violations of human rights by making it appear that:

- 1) "these were ... not the result of explicit government policy at the political level";
- 2) only ill-disciplined lower ranking military personnel are involved;
- 3) the incidence of torture and other violations has decreased; and
- 4) the government is doing its best to correct this "aberration".

Duplicity of Carter Administration Is Revealed

MORE IMPORTANTLY, THE REPORT ARGUED that the violations are not bad enough to require cutting off aid to the regime under the provisions of the Human Rights Amendment (passed by Congress in 1976). Stressing the need to maintain the "major military bases ... at Clark Air Base and the naval base at Subic Bay" as necessary for "U.S. global security", it recommended continued U.S. military aid to the Marcos fascist dictatorship as an "implicit quid pro quo (even exchange) for our use of these facilities".

On February 24, in a statement before the Senate Appropriations Committee, Secretary of State Cyrus Vance made even more clear the Carter administration's duplicity in its human rights posture when he announced that "the U.S. would not reduce its aid to strategically placed allies, whatever their violations of human rights". The Marcos regime thus received \$40.4 million in military aid from the U.S. this year, despite the overwhelming evidence of torture and political repression here.

Ang Katipunan, the national newspaper of the Union of Democratic Filipinos, a militant organization leading the anti-martial law struggle in the U.S., castigated Carter's concern for human rights as merely "cosmetic and designed to suit the current international trend towards concern for civil liberties."

About the only country which the Carter administration has consistently and strongly condemned for violations of human rights is the Soviet Union, a "traditional enemy". It has made a few ... cuts in direct military aid to such countries as Uruguay, Argentina and Ethiopia, while channelling larger amounts of economic aid through other agencies. It has given no concessions whatever in areas considered strategic by the Pentagon and U.S. corporations, such as the Pacific Basin (the Philippines, South



Anti-martial law groups in the U.S. realize it is not enough to counter the Carter offensive through congressional lobbying methods.

"We must begin to convert concern for human rights into a mass movement," urges an FFP activist.



Korea, Taiwan, Indonesia, Thailand, etc.)

Why the Masquerade

SUCH A MASQUERADE is necessary for U.S. imperialism because 87% of the American people -- according to a 1975 Harris poll -- desire a cut-off of U.S. assistance to corrupt and repressive dictatorships. But U.S. imperialism has to intensify its drive for superprofits in the Third World to compensate for its domestic crisis, and it has -- and will continue to -- set up military dictatorships in Third World countries where the formal democratic system can no longer effectively silence nationalist opposition and impose a regime of labor repression.

Carter's "human rights" policy tried to appease the American people by encouraging "a form of regime that would combine some of the trappings of parliamentary democracy with the substance of repressive dictatorship".

All such efforts are doomed to fail.

For one thing, U.S. puppets cannot even comply with the "trappings of parliamentary democracy".

The Marcos fascist dictatorship, for example, will find it more and more difficult to fulfill even the meager requirements of Carter's "human rights" policy as the struggle of the Filipino people intensifies.

Deception Becoming Harder for Marcos

THE BURNING HATRED of the Filipino people for his fascist rule is erupting into more and more acts of open resistance and struggle. And this is pressuring the dictator to show more and more its repressive and brutal hand.

He releases hundreds of political prisoners one day and arrests thousands the following week. He is afraid to call even tightly-guarded elections for a pseudo-legislative assembly. He pretends to dissolve the military tribunals yet continues the mockery of military trials against Senator Aquino, a group of youths and worker leaders branded as "subversives" and more than 100 clergymen and lay leaders in Davao City. He orders that the torturers of Training Herrera be tried in the same breath that he



claims there is no evidence against them.

Carter Also Has Same Dilemma

ON THE OTHER HAND, the Carter administration itself is embroiled in its own dilemma at home as the human rights movement in the U.S. increasingly pressure it to fulfill its pronouncements.

Three pressure groups are generating a movement in the U.S. Congress to cut off all military and economic aid to the Marcos fascist regime: the anti-martial law movement within the Filipino community, the support movement in the broader American public and the "Human Rights Movement".

Most Filipinos in the U.S., are skeptical about, privately oppose or openly denounce the Marcos dictatorship. Such sentiments have given birth to the Anti-Martial Law Coalition, an alliance of active oppositionists to fascist rule which was founded in December 1974. It has mobilized the Filipino community to attend protests before Philippine consular offices in San Francisco, Seattle, New York, Los Angeles, Chicago and Honolulu as well as the American people to support an anti-aid lobby in Congress.

More and more among the American people are also supporting the Filipino people's struggle against dictatorship, including such influential institutions as the National Council of Churches; American Federation of State, County, Municipal Employees and International Longshoremen and Warehousemen's Union. The most active of them are grouped into the Friends of the Filipino people.

The FFP sponsors grassroots petition campaigns and fields witnesses at congressional hearings, particularly those held by the House Subcommittee on International Organizations, the nerve center of the anti-aid effort in Congress. This lobbying work has contributed to the holding of special hearings on the status of human rights in the Philippines last June 1975; helped in the formulation of the "Human Rights Amendment" to the International Security Assistance and Arms Exports Act of 1976; and campaigned for the cutting down of the 1977 military aid package to Marcos in 1976.

The anti-war movement in the U.S. has created the political atmosphere favorable to the formation of a human rights movement in the U.S. In early 1976, a "Human Rights Task Force" was created, later incorporated as the "Human Rights Working Group" into the newly-formed Coalition for a New Foreign and Military Policy. The Working Group is a coalition of about 33 organizations united to end aid to repressive regimes.

Grassroots Actions and Lobbies

THESE VARIOUS MASS ORGANIZATIONS work closely with U.S. legislators who are committed to a fundamental reorientation of U.S. foreign policy. They are fighting off attempts by the Carter administration to emasculate the present human rights provisions in laws governing international relations as well as pushing for a wider application of such provisions.

Recently, they halted a Carter move to rescind the strict human rights provision governing U.S. participation in multilateral aid agencies. This provision requires U.S. representatives to the Inter-American Development Bank and African Development Fund to vote against economic assistance to "gross and consistent violators of human rights".

Carter had proposed an amendment which will not specifically
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For the Moro people,
Marcos desires ...

DESTRUCTION, NOT AUTONOMY



THE BRAZEN VIOLATIONS by the Marcos dictatorship of the Tripoli agreements and its preparations for the resumption of the war in the South show that granting real autonomy to the Moro people is the farthest thing from its mind.

Events since the start of the ceasefire last December show that the regime is only hell-bent at destroying the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) and the Bangsa Moro Army (BMA) instead of arriving at a just and peaceful solution to the Mindanao conflict. Destruction of the MNLF and the BMA will pave the way for the regime's accelerated oppression of the Moro people and the exploitation of the abundant natural resources in the Mindanao-Sulu-Palawan area by American and Japanese imperialists, local compradors, landlords and bureaucrat capitalists.

Dictatorship Violates Two Tripoli Agreements

AFTER ACTIVELY seeking out the concerned parties of the war in the South to talk the matter over on the conference table, the dictatorship entered into two agreements which it then violated without compunction.

In the first agreement at Tripoli, Libya which it entered with the MNLF on December 23 last year, the regime bound itself to proclaim 13 provinces in the South as the Moro autonomous region. These provinces are Basilan, Sulu, Tawi-Tawi, Zamboanga del Sur, Zamboanga del Norte, Lanao del Sur, Lanao del Norte, Maguindanao, Sultan Kudarat, Cotabato del Sur, Cotabato del Norte, Davao Sur and Palawan.

Although he declared the 13 provinces as an "autonomous" area, Marcos

called for a "referendum-plebiscite" which violated the spirit of the agreement. Originally set for March 17, the fake referendum-plebiscite held last April 17 was stage-managed by the puppet Commission on Elections (COMELEC) and the Department of Local Government and Community Development (DLG CD) and was designed to undermine the MNLF. The "results" were manipulated to oppose the MNLF demand for autonomy to the area.

The second Tripoli agreement was basically a reiteration of the first but was signed by the regime and Libya. The agreement provided for the granting of autonomy to the 13 provinces mentioned and the formation of a provisional government which shall include concerned parties from the MNLF and the inhabitants of the areas of "autonomy". These were violated by the Marcos dictatorship which still went on with the fake referendum-plebiscite and set up a "provisional government" composed of its henchmen.

These developments prompted the Quadripartite Ministerial Commission, which is overseeing the ceasefire in the South, to blame the regime for the collapse of the peace talks. The Commission declared that the goal of the Marcos government was "to gain time in order to prepare for an over-all military action against the Muslims in the South, impose a 'fait accompli' policy and continue depriving them of their own legitimate homeland." The Commission is composed of representatives from Libya, Somalia, Senegal, Egypt and all Islamic states.

Regime Steps Up Campaign Against MNLF

ACTUALLY since the ceasefire started,

more and more puppet troops have been pouring into Zamboanga City and other points in Mindanao. Warplanes of the dictatorship have been reported to have strafed BMA positions in the City and Province of Cotabato. Provocations of MNLF fighters by AFP elements have become frequent.

Behind the lines, the regime has intensified recruitment of puppet troops for deployment in Mindanao and Sulu. Additional war materials are being secured from abroad. Plans for a massive and -- what the dictatorship hopes -- a final offensive against the MNLF and BMA are being readied.

To bankroll this military offensive, the fascist regime has imposed new and higher taxes. Budgets of the civilian agencies have been slashed. The regime is practically begging the United States, Japan and other imperialist countries for more loans and to increase their imports from the Philippines in an all-out effort to scrounge funds.

Why Regime Negotiated with MNLF.

THESE MILITARY and economic measures apparently are designed to solve the problems faced by the regime with regard to the prosecution of the war in the South. Spokesmen of the dictatorship have admitted that the regime was compelled to negotiate with the MNLF in Libya for the following reasons:

1) The severe battlefield losses of the AFP;

2) The deepening economic crisis caused by the expenditure of at least P1 million a day in its campaign of genocide against the Moro people, coupled with the growing resistance of the Filipino masses to paying exorbitant taxes to support the dictatorship; and

3) A threat by members of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) and other predominantly Islamic nations to denounce the Marcos regime in the United Nations and to withhold oil exports to it.

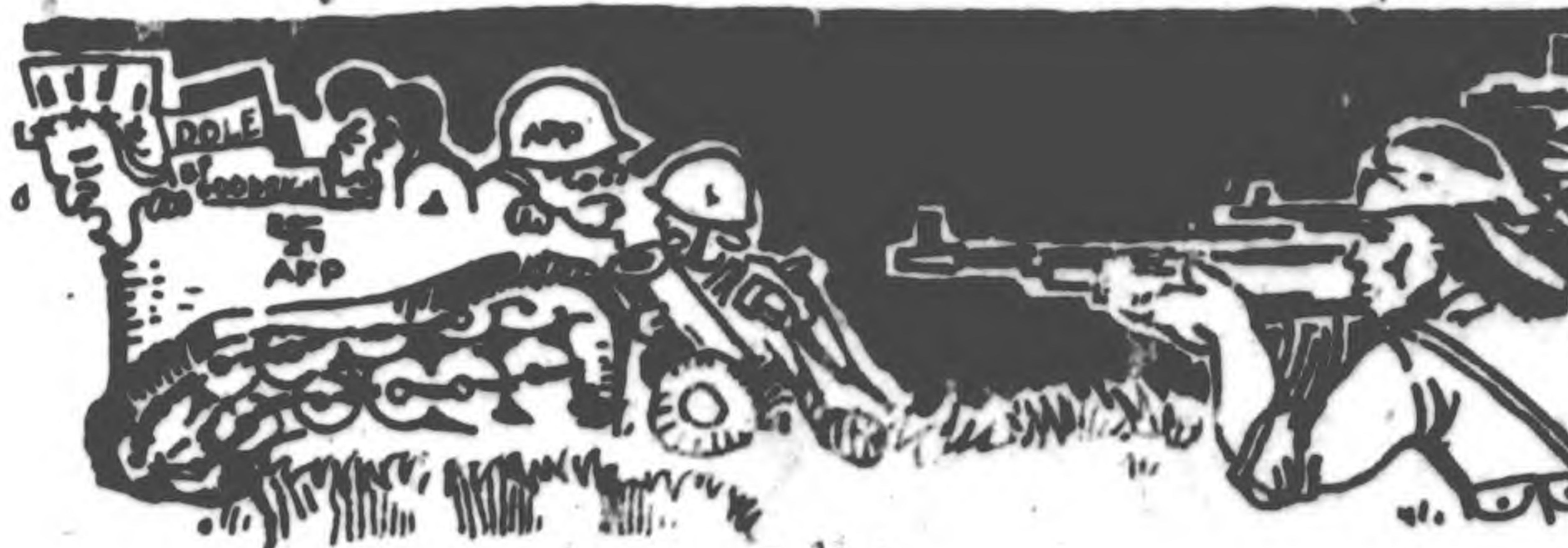
Taking these into consideration, the charge of the Quadripartite Ministerial Commission assumed great importance in determining the future actions of the Marcos dictatorship. The dictatorship has publicly declared that it would play its part in maintaining the ceasefire in the South -- this, despite its actions pointing towards the opposite direction.

Knowing as it does that everyday that the ceasefire continues the MNLF becomes stronger and bigger, the dictatorship is not interested in prolonging the ceasefire unnecessarily. As soon as it thinks it has replenished its forces, stockpiled the necessary war supplies and taken the required political preparations, the Marcos fascist regime will be on a rampage again -- this time on a more colossal scale.

The Key to Genuine Autonomy

WHEN THAT TIME COMES, the Moro people will realize more than ever that the chauvinist, oppressive and pro-imperialist state they have been combatting will have to be destroyed in order to secure autonomy. And the key to genuine autonomy would be firmly allying themselves with truly revolutionary armed groups in the country and abroad, in the attainment of a people's democracy.

Only with the establishment of a people's democratic state in the Philippines can the Moro people be assured that their identity and interests would be safeguarded and preserved. ●



Fight for democracy, Fight for national independence!



(A translation of the joint editorial issued on June 12, 1977 by the Sukiuran ng Manggagawang Pilipino, Katipunan ng Malayang Mamamayan and Kabataang Makabayan)

June 12 -- Independence Day. A day we are supposed to celebrate because 79 years ago, the Filipino people won their independence from the Spanish colonialists. Because we can now stand as a sovereign nation no longer under the heel of the foreigners.

But are we truly free from the foreigners? Is the will of the people followed in the country? Are they the ones who decide their own destiny?

The workers want wages that will enable them to live a human life. Their wages are fixed below the increasing costs of living. The peasants want land. The little that they have is grabbed from them. The slum dwellers want decent housing. Their homes are demolished. The students want to serve the poor. Their schools are turned into garrisons. We want low prices. The prices of goods keep on rising. We want less taxation. More taxes are heaped on us.

And the foreigners?

Everything that they want is granted to them by the martial law government. High prices for their oil and oil products. The freedom to exploit our natural resources. Unlimited remittance of their super-profits. Thousands of hectares of land for their industrial sites, plantations and logging concessions. The use of Philippine soil for their military bases. High interest rates and economic privileges for keeping the country heavily in debt.

Is this what we call independence? Can we say that the people's will is being followed?

Last May 1, 20,000 citizens gathered at Rizal Park to express their anger at and resistance to the poverty and oppression they are suffering under martial rule. They were treated worse than criminals -- hundreds of Metrocom troops, police and barangay tanod sealed them off and violently broke up their assembly. More than 1,000 were arrested and thrown into jail. Suspected leaders of the rally were beaten and tortured.

At Engineering Equipment, Inc., the workers are demanding that the foreign owners of the company grant them a P2 wage increase and reinstate the suspended officers of the union. Their petitions at the Department of Labor, at Camp Crame and at Malacañang went unheard. They had no other recourse but to go on strike. And for this, they were imprisoned for several days. The government would not allow that a single centavo of profit should be taken away from the foreign capitalists.

All over the country, this is happening. Whenever we protest the abuses of the "new society", we are repressed. Why? Because our protests hurt the interests of the foreigners.

When workers strike to press for decent wages, they endanger the super-profits being amassed by the foreign capitalists. Higher wages result in lower profits. To get the most profit, they must give their workers the lowest wages.

We ask that the constant increases in the prices of goods be stopped. But when prices are low, the foreigners do not get as much profit. To them, this is the same as losing money. So they will not allow price increases to be curbed.

The foreigners know that uprisings start from small actions. Thus, they want every expression of protest to be immediately suppressed. And the martial law government, because it shares in the profits of the foreigners, acts as their instrument of repression.

Nothing can be clearer! We have no independence! Not the will of the people, but the will of the foreigner, is followed.

We have no independence to celebrate on June 12. Instead, what we should do on this day is to strengthen our commitment to achieve true independence. We must begin to take our destiny into our own hands.

Here is one area where we can start.

At SEI, the foreign capitalists and the government are planning to crush the resistance of the workers, to "teach them a lesson".

Let us not allow this to happen! Until now, the SEI workers continue to struggle, in the face of all kinds of repression. Shall we allow them to be defeated? Shall we allow the will of the foreign capitalists to prevail? No! Let us give all support to the SEI workers. Let us launch sympathy actions in our own factories and communities.

The foreign capitalists and the government want to teach the workers a lesson. Let us answer their challenge! Let us teach them a lesson -- that the people are prepared to fight. That they will not continue to be slaves in their own country. That they are determined to have their will prevail.

(On June 12, 1,200 workers, urban poor, students and religious called for an end to the Marcos fascist dictatorship and to U.S.-Japanese imperialist control.)

CARTER'S HUMAN RIGHTS...(From page 11)

prohibit the U.S. government from extending aid to repressive governments but instead will encourage the administration to "channel aid to democratic non-repressive governments".

The anti-aid groups are now making a determined effort to put under Congressional control the assistance coursed through U.S.-dominated international funding agencies, such as the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank. These agencies, they say, are a more significant conduit of assistance than official U.S. government assistance. They point out that only 6% of all economic assistance going to the Third World from the U.S. or U.S.-dominated agencies is under the direct surveillance of the U.S. Congress.

These groups realize that it is not enough to counter the Carter offensive through congressional lobbying methods. "We must begin to convert concern for human rights into a mass movement," an FFP activist said.

Not only is a mass movement beginning among the American people and the Filipino people to assert human rights in defiance of the imperialists and the fascists.

More and more among the Filipino people are taking up arms to totally drive out U.S. imperialism from their country and the local ruling clique whom it supports. And more and more among the American people are turning to armed revolution to finally put a stop to U.S. imperialism's aggression throughout the world.

POINT-BLANK

MARCOS HECKLES FELLOW DOG

The Marcos press has been waxing indignant over the dog attack on a Filipino scavenger at the periphery of Clark Air Base.

Foreign Affairs officials are sending furious notes of protest to the U.S. embassy.

And the dictator is thumping his chest again, declaring that "Philippine sovereignty is not negotiable".

But the U.S. government is not at all worried. It has grown quite used to Marcos' harmless heckling. It is sure that the fascist regime will never do the one thing that will be compatible with our national dignity: remove all U.S. military bases out of the country.

In fact, as soon as the dictator gets his \$1 billion aid from the U.S. government, the human rights of Fernando Nuguid and other victims of U.S. imperialist brutality can all be consigned to the newspaper morgues.

LIKE MASTER, LIKE DOG

The Amnesty International Report recounts the torture of a political prisoner inside the headquarters of the 5th Constabulary Security Unit last October 4, 1974:

"Lt. Col. Aure repeatedly kicked him (the detainee) in the shins while Lt. Aguinaldo and Lt. B punched him in the ribs. Lt. Aguinaldo also held Mr. Atienza's head and repeatedly pounded it against the edge of a filing cabinet. A large dog was brought in and prodded to attack Mr. Atienza's genitals but he rolled up his body to protect himself."

Marcos' fascist goons and Sgt. Joseph Gaines must have gone to the same school.

MASSES TEACH DOG A LESSON

Not all dog stories have a tragic ending. Here's one that has a valuable lesson for the people:

After a military assault had forcibly segregated two detainees from the Bicutan Rehabilitation Center, their fellow political prisoners were so enraged that they began to move upon a group of guards left behind.

One soldier had his Doberman Pincher with him. But, seeing the determined advance of the detainees, he let go of his dog and scampered toward the wall.

Following closely on his heels was his best friend, the Doberman! The

Marcos heckles fellow dog,
a real one this time

poor dog was so frightened that it crashlanded on the barbed wire mesh atop the fence.

Even killer dogs turn tail in the face of united, militant mass action.

NOW YOU SEE THEM, NOW YOU DON'T

Did you know Marcos the puppet is now also Marcos the magician?

In just one twist of his tongue, he can make political prisoners disappear.

November 25, 1975, in a statement to Amnesty International delegates, the fascist chieftain blurts out: "There have been some 50,000 arrested and detained ever since the declaration of martial law."

November 8, 1976, almost a year later, he asserts: "We have no political prisoners in the Philippines."

June 3, 1977, before the Foreign Correspondents Association, he says: "Of those presently detained, there are 598 political detainees."

The Association of Major Religious Superiors of the Philippines and Amnesty International count at least 5,000 political detainees.

My, my. For a pretty tricky magician, Marcos is sure a lousy counter. Will one of his Japanese imperialist buddies please give him a calculator?

FIRST COUPLE: GOOD 'ROVERS'

One time, a Japanese tourist was trying to convince a disgruntled Filipino of the blessings of the Marcos dictatorship.

"You know, you Filipinos are very rucky. Imagine, you have a President who roves you very much. And your First Rady even roves you a hundred times more!"

REVOLUTIONARY GRAFFITI MAKES DRAMATIC COMEBACK

Dumbfounded were Marcos and his khaki gangsters, when just a few days before Labor Day, they awoke to find...

(Turn to page 7)

