

ON THE MARCH 3 PEOPLE'S MARCH¹

It is now clear that the issues against U.S. imperialism, feudalism and bureaucrat capitalism are widely understood and grasped by the Filipino people. A strong proof of this was the People's March which was launched last March 3.

The March 3 People's March earned the cheers, sympathy and support of the city residents as it started from the boundary of Manila and Quezon City passing through the districts of Sampaloc, Sta. Cruz, Tondo and Binondo where the masses of workers and poor people in the city dwell. Like an on rushing wave, the ranks of the marchers grew bigger and larger numbering more than 20,000 when it reached its converging point at Plaza Lawton. Afterwards it proceeded to the U.S. embassy and besieged this hated symbol of U.S. imperialism in the country.

This is a hard blow to the reactionary enemies who have been desperately smearing the militant demonstrators and organizations in the city by spreading the lie that mass actions and demonstrations do not enjoy the support of the masses of the people.

The 23-kilometer march which lasted for six hours shook the whole city. Angry slogans "Down with U.S. imperialism!," "Down with Feudalism!," "Down with the fascist puppet Marcos!" and "Long live the Filipino people!" thundered everywhere. The ever-rising enthusiasm of the marchers was further animated by their spirited chant: "Makibaka huwag matakot!" (Fight, don't be cowed!)

In mortal fear of the angry criticisms of the workers, students and intellectuals, the Marcos fascist puppet regime panicked like a mad dog. Hurriedly, the reactionary state sent thousands of reactionary armed troops, police, Metrocom and special forces to suppress mercilessly the demonstrators. As before, guns, truncheons and tear gas bombs were used to disperse the marchers. Many were beaten and maimed. Many were unjustly arrested and jailed. During this fierce attack by the fascist beasts unleashed by the reactionary state, a student again died fighting—Enrique Sta. Brigida—adding one more to the list of heroes who have sacrificed their lives in the city and in the countryside to continue through to the end the struggle for national democracy. The people once more witnessed how the Marcos fascist puppet regime acting on behalf of U.S. imperialism

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and feudalism would ruthlessly suppress the democratic rights of the demonstrators.

However, the bloody suppression of the March 3 People's March failed to intimidate the masses of workers, student and youth who joined the historic mass action. It only goaded them more to wage a resolute struggle for national democracy. With revolutionary courage, they fought back the fascist puppet military troops with stones, bottles, placard handles and home-made bombs.

While this revolutionary and courageous struggle in the city has inspired the armed struggle waged in the countryside by the New People's Army under the leadership of the Communist Party of the Philippines, it has also shown how armed struggle in the countryside would enliven with news of victories the revolutionary mass actions and struggle in the city.

The Meaning of the People's March

The March 3 People's March is another wave in the high tide of mass actions and demonstrations in the past months of January and February. It is a part of the national democratic cultural revolution which is now increasingly raging all over the country.

This cultural revolution clearly explains the national democratic character of the present stage of the Philippine revolution. It shows that its main targets are U.S. imperialism, local feudalism and bureaucrat capitalism and that its motive forces are the workers, peasants and the revolutionary section of the petty bourgeoisie.

This cultural revolution sharply points out that the only road towards the triumph of the national democratic revolution is armed struggle under the leadership of the working class and the Communist Party of the Philippines. The cultural revolution is a basic preparation for nationwide advance of the people's war in the countryside.

The People's March has brought closer and made more urgent to the broad masses of the people the necessity of the struggle against U.S. imperialism, feudalism and bureaucrat capitalism. It is now widely understood by the broad masses of the people that the ruthless exploitation of U.S. imperialism and its local reactionary allies is the root cause of poverty and oppression of the Filipino nation. Now they can correctly interpret the present devaluation of the peso, high prices of commodities, unemployment, widespread hunger and suffering, graft and corruption in the government and decadent culture. It is also widely understood that only

through armed struggle can the people bring about the downfall of the enemies of national democracy.

The People's March is a clarion call for more widespread and more intensified mass actions, especially among the toiling people. The strike called by tens of thousands of drivers in Manila and suburbs paralyzed transportation in the metropolitan area. That these strikers coordinated with the demonstrating youth and students is a sign of a rapidly growing unity among the people, especially the proletariat and the student youth. There is no doubt that the March 3 People's March gave testimony to such a patriotic unity. There is now a very strong indication that a storm of workers' strikes would shake the cities in the near future side by side with the intensified armed struggle of peasant fighters in the countryside.

Enemy Tactics of Deception

At present, the enemy is cudgeling its brain to think out ways to destroy or weaken the movement for national democracy. The policy of deception is the other face of the same coin of the fascist suppression of the people. It is important in the struggle for national democracy to recognize the various tactics of deception, to expose and oppose them.

Heading the list of the targets of slander and intrigue of the reactionary state and the pseudorevolutionaries are the Communist Party of the Philippines, the New People's Army and other revolutionary mass organizations. An example of this is the fake letter published in the **Philippine Collegian** of UP and carrying the patently forged signature of the commander-in-chief of the New People's Army. It is stated in the fake letter that it is dangerous for the students to continue their demonstrations against U.S. imperialism, feudalism and bureaucrat capitalism because it might end up in a coup d'etat like what happened in Indonesia or that it might pave the way for a more ruthless puppet of U.S. imperialism. This is a shameless attempt to cover up the condemnable puppetry of the reactionary Marcos administration to U.S. imperialism and to wash its hands of the blood of those it has murdered in the city and in the countryside.

This trick of branding genuine revolutionaries as enemies of the people can no longer deceive the masses who now recognize who their friends are and who their enemies are. More and more people now accept and grasp the correct line and leadership of the Communist Party of the Philippines for a victorious national democratic revolution.

Another counterrevolutionary intrigue which is aimed to whip up hatred against staunch supporters of the people's democratic revolution is the racist anti-Chinese line peddled by CIA agents like Bagatsing, scabs like Oca and Hernandez and others. Through a put-up and fake student organization, the reactionary state has attempted many times to mislead the masses of the Filipino people in their struggle against U.S. imperialism, feudalism and bureaucrat capitalism by espousing a so-called "anti-Chinese imperialism" battlecry. Yet the anti-Chinese racists are actually agents of both the CIA and the Chiang bandit gang.

The Filipino revolutionaries appreciate and recognize the fact that the People's Republic of China is the iron bastion of the international revolutionary movement and the staunchest ally of the peoples of the world in struggle against U.S. imperialism, modern revisionism and all reaction. The Red-baiting tactic of the die-hard anticommunists becomes ridiculous now that the masses of the people themselves are fighting their real class enemies.

The reactionary state has been getting the help of the counterrevolutionary revisionist Lava clique to discredit and sabotage true revolutionary organizations. By hoisting its banner of "peaceful approach," the revisionist Lava clique has betrayed the masses of the people by closing its eyes to the murder, torture, illegal arrest and other forms of persecution used by the Marcos fascist puppet regime.

An undeniable example of the despicable counterrevolutionary trait of the counterrevolutionary revisionist Lava clique is the slander leveled by the Lava-controlled Malayang Pagkakaisa ng Kabataang Pilipino (MPKP) against the participants of the March 3 People's March. While the demonstrators fought back in self-defense against the fascist military troops guarding the U.S. embassy, the extremely small band of revisionist traitors separated itself from the masses of demonstrators, sat it out there in front of the embassy unmindful of the bloody suppression of the People's March and enjoyed the protection of the police and Metrocom no less. The MPKP also issued a statement to the press denouncing the revolutionary violence resorted to by the workers and students in their defense against counterrevolutionary violence. This group even boasted that they had nothing to do with the U.S. embassy struggle.

Not satisfied in accusing the demonstrators as "vandals," the reactionary government fielded its hired goons and agents to infiltrate the ranks of the demonstrators. These goons and agents were instructed to stone and destroy small private establishments making it appear that the demonstrators were responsible for these acts of

destruction. The flushing out of a plainclothes Metrocom agent who lobbed a tear gas bomb amidst the demonstrators was a clear proof of this dirty tactic of the reactionary military to paint a bad picture of demonstrations.

It is argued by the enemies of national democracy that mass actions and demonstrations are causing the crisis in the economy. The truth, however, is that the growing discontent of the masses of the people in the countryside and in the cities is caused by the very servitude of the Marcos reactionary regime to U.S. imperialism and feudalism.

Through its hired publicists, the reactionary state is desperately trying to describe the demonstrations as the making of a "noisy minority." The series of people's marches have belied this. Everybody knows how the masses of city residents have appreciated, joined or supported the demonstrations. No counterrevolutionary propaganda can deny the fact that the national democratic revolution will achieve victory because more than 90 percent of the masses—the workers, the peasants and progressive intellectuals—are on the side of the revolution.

The vilification campaign and tactics of deception of the enemy against the national democratic movement will never cease, and the more they will be intensified as the revolution advances. Indeed, to be attacked by the enemy is a good thing.

Broaden the Revolutionary Front

While we lay bare and fight the counterrevolutionary schemes of the enemy of the national democratic revolution, it is necessary to expand the revolutionary front. The present excellent revolutionary situation offers the best opportunity to unite under the banner of national democratic revolution all the classes oppressed and exploited by U.S. imperialism, feudalism and bureaucrat capitalism.

The past mass actions and demonstrations which have been mainly participated in by the youth and students have shaken the whole nation and have brought fear among the ruling classes. It must be recognized that these patriotic actions constitute a forward step towards a more intense struggle of the broad masses of working people for national democracy. Every revolutionary must devote his full attention and efforts to firmly integrating the activities of the youth and students to the workers' movement in the city and the peasant movement in the countryside.

The fast rising revolutionary movement can no longer be stopped. The broad masses of the people are now certain of victory because there is now the correct leadership of the

Communist Party of the Philippines which is guided by Marxism-Leninism-Mao Zedong Thought.

In the months to come, there will occur more intense and more widespread mass actions that will surely shake the regime of U.S. imperialism, feudalism and bureaucrat capitalism. The mighty crushing blows that this movement will deal the enemy will certainly open wider the road of the national democratic revolution.

ON THE MARCH 17 POOR PEOPLE'S MARCH¹

Hundreds of thousands of people once more thronged the streets of Manila and suburbs on March 17 during the Poor People's March. It culminated the series of mass actions, in what is now called the First Quarter Storm of 1970 launched by the masses of workers, peasants, student youth and progressive intellectuals in the cities and countryside to demonstrate their persistent struggle against the evils of U.S. imperialism, feudalism and bureaucrat capitalism. The March 17 Poor People's March was another declaration of support made by the masses in the city for the people's democratic revolution, particularly for the armed struggle now being resolutely waged by the Communist Party of the Philippines and the New People's Army.

The March 17 Poor People's March completely isolated and excluded the black bourgeois gang of the Lava's, the Philippine agents of modern revisionism. Many of those previously hoodwinked by this counterrevolutionary tool of U.S. imperialism saw through the political bankruptcy of the revisionist ringleaders, and adopted the slogans raised by the revolutionary masses.

The March

The March 17 Poor People's March started before noon with the four groups of marchers coming from four separate points: Quezon City, Makati, Caloocan and Tondo. Wave upon wave, the marchers converged at the university belt in Sampaloc area. Already numbering tens of thousands, they were to be met and joined by thousands more of cheering students coming from the many colleges and universities in the area. From Sampaloc, the marchers swelled through the main streets and avenues of Manila on its way to Plaza Moriones in Tondo to convoke the public trial for U.S. imperialism, feudalism, the Marcos fascist puppet regime and other big enemies of the Filipino masses.

Hundreds of thousands filled the sidewalks as city residents poured out of their houses to applaud or join the march. Everywhere still more people from sidestreets hurried to reach up with the gigantic march. The people cheered and shouted words of support and encouragement. They, especially the poor people of Sta. Cruz and Tondo, manifested their support by handing out to the marchers food and refreshment,

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cigarettes and cash contributions. The marchers became even more enthusiastic in holding high their banners and placards. Newcomers reinforced the march and made it even more vigorous and militant.

Workers came out of the factories to cheer the marchers and express their support. Thousands of them left their chores and joined the march. The busy people in stores and markets paused from their work to watch and cheer the massive march. The March 17 Poor People's March once more exposed the lie that national democratic mass actions do not enjoy the support and sympathy of the masses of the people.

The intense summer heat and the blistering 30-kilometer meandering trek to Plaza Moriones never broke the revolutionary spirit of the marchers. Hunger and thirst and fatigue never made them desert the ranks of the march.

Thousands of leaflets and manifestoes explaining the issues of the struggle against U.S. imperialism, feudalism and bureaucrat capitalism were distributed to the people along the way. Grasping the correct line of people's democratic revolution, the marchers lofted banners and placards proclaiming: "Long live people's war!", "Political power grows out of the barrel of a gun," "People's war is the answer to martial law" and "Long live the agrarian revolution!" Through their placards and banners, the marchers denounced and condemned U.S. imperialism, feudalism and bureaucrat capitalism. All throughout the long march they sang revolutionary songs and chanted the now famous chant: "Makibaka, huwag matakot!" (Fight, don't be cowed!). The Poor People's March as part of the growing cultural revolution was clearly aimed to arouse and mobilize the masses further for a people's democratic revolution.

The People's Court

The public trial for U.S. imperialism, feudalism and bureaucrat capitalism was the highlight of the March 17 Poor People's March. The big criminals exploiting and oppressing the Filipino people were named and tried. Effigies of the criminals were displayed on the stage at Plaza Moriones. Various speakers representing the participating organizations and groups in the march took turns in stating and proving the colossal crimes of the people's enemies.

Pointed out as among the biggest crimes committed by U.S. imperialism against the Filipino people were:

- 1) The devaluation of the peso and the practice of international usury through the International Monetary Fund, World Bank, U.S. private banks and other imperialist banks;

2) Economic plunder of the Philippines and super-profit remittances by the U.S. monopolies;

3) Masterminding the fascist suppression of the Filipino people and the manipulation of the Marcos puppet regime, the military and police against the patriotic mass movement; and

4) Transgression of Philippine sovereignty and territory and criminal acts inside and outside of U.S. military bases in the country.

The Marcos fascist puppet regime was held responsible for the following crimes:

1) Rising prices due to puppetry to U.S. imperialism;

2) Complicity in the oppression and exploitation of the workers, peasants, students and other patriotic elements of the population by U.S. imperialists, landlords and bureaucrat capitalists;

3) Colossal graft and corruption;

4) Fascistic acts of his regime like massacres, assassinations and other coercive activities suppressing people's democratic rights in both city and countryside; and

5) Fraud and terrorism in the last elections.

The masses of workers, peasants and student youth attending the public trial shouted their judgment and condemnation of U.S. imperialism and the Marcos fascist puppet regime.

The Manila fascist puppet chieftain was also put to trial for his complicity with U.S. imperialism and the fascist puppet Marcos regime in the brutal suppression of mass actions and demonstrations in the city and for the murder of seven young demonstrators. Genuine labor leaders took turns in assailing fake labor leaders like Ople, Oca and others and pointing out their crimes against the Filipino working class. The clerico-fascists, the Anti-Communist League and the local Kuomintang reactionaries were likewise exposed and denounced. The reactionary courts, Congress and the reactionary mass media were also tried and condemned as instruments of U.S. imperialism and domestic feudalism.

Peasant leaders also denounced the Taruc-Sumulong gangster clique for its crimes against the peasants in Central Luzon and against the revolution. The Taruc-Sumulong gangster clique was exposed for its counter-revolutionary acts of class collaboration, capitulationism and class betrayal like begging of amnesty from the Marcos fascist puppet regime, collaboration with landlords to oppress the peasants and

extortion activities among the masses.

After the repudiation of the Taruc-Sumulong gangster clique, the thousands of people attending the trial publicly acclaimed the New People's Army as the true army of the people against U.S. imperialism, feudalism and bureaucrat capitalism. A fiery speaker was cheered the longest when he courageously said: "As we have the people's march, the people's congress and the people's tribunal, we have the people's army, too, the New People's Army. Long live the New People's Army!"

This expression of support for the New People's Army, which is under the leadership of the Communist Party of the Philippines, is to be expected from the masses of demonstrators and marchers in view of the fact that they clearly recognize the truth of Chairman Mao's statement: "Without a people's army, the people have nothing." The people's army is the instrument for executing the people's judgment.

Once More Fascist Violence

Before, during and after March 17, the local reactionaries led by their fascist puppet chieftain tried to make use of their power to counteract the Poor People's March.

Through the reactionary mass media, the Marcos fascist puppet regime spread the lie that the marchers would commit acts of vandalism and destruction to property. At the same time, it gave orders to the Manila puppet chieftain Villegas not to issue any rally permit.

Villegas at first refused to grant the permit for the march on the flimsy ground that he did not know personally the person who applied for the permit. But knowing that the broad masses of the people would push through with the march even without the permit, Villegas issued it at the eleventh hour after much dilly-dallying.

Having failed miserably to stop the Poor People's March, the Marcos fascist puppet regime resort to violent means. At the start of the march, police, hired goons and plainclothes military infiltrators lobbed tear gas bombs at the ranks of the marchers. Obviously, it was an attempt to disrupt and disperse the marchers from proceeding to Plaza Moriones. At Plaza Moriones before the start of the public trial, secret agents of the reactionary government hurled a tear gas bomb in the direction of the stage. They missed their target and instead the bomb exploded near a group of children. This resulted in serious injuries to the children and discomfort to the entire neighborhood in the vicinity. The demonstrators alerted themselves and caught one hired goon

in the act of lobbing a home-made bomb at the assembled marchers.

A battle between the marchers and the fascist military brutes came when the march proceeded to the U.S. embassy. Thousands of military troops sealed the bridges leading to the U.S. embassy. But the marchers overpowered them and broke through the cordon. Near the U.S. embassy, the brutes hurled their tear gas bombs at the marchers. The marchers retaliated by throwing their own home-made bombs at the enemy. The police and military troops soon attacked the marchers with their truncheons and guns. Many marchers were injured but they fought courageously with their placard handles, sticks, stones, bottles and home-made bombs. Utterly confused, the fascist brutes fired their guns at the people, hitting one seriously and injuring several others. The battle lasted for some hours until the marchers dispersed. From then on, the police and the military troops beat up and arrested the remaining marchers who were not able to slip through the cordon of the reinforcing troops and who were helpless as they were unarmed.

The fascist brutality inflicted by the Marcos fascist puppet regime on the participants of the March 17 Poor People's March will long remain in the minds of the people. It shows how so utterly afraid the Marcos fascist puppet regime is of mass criticism that it would resort to brutality and murder.

The Prairie Fire

The revolutionary struggle of the masses of the Filipino people against U.S. imperialism, feudalism and bureaucrat capitalism is vigorously developing throughout the country. Never before have the major cities and provincial centers witnessed a storm of massive rallies, demonstrations and strikes as in the months of January, February and March. By the end of February alone, the masses in the countryside have launched a succession of more than 40 national democratic mass actions of unprecedented strength.

Even before the historic January 26 and 30 massive demonstrations, students, teachers and progressive intellectuals in numerous colleges and universities in places outside of Manila were already holding protest strikes against the reactionary educational system and against the national crisis bred by the Marcos puppet regime. The storm of rallies, demonstrations and strikes in Manila greatly stirred the masses of the people in the countryside to action. Open mass struggles soon caught fire among the peasants especially in such provinces as Negros and Laguna which are under extreme landlord oppression. Not to be muffled by the deliberate silence of the reactionary

mass media were the indignant voices of the workers in many cities and provincial centers who struck and staged demonstrations to demand increase in wages to cope up with the decreasing value of the peso brought about by devaluation.

Following the March 3 People's March and the March 17 Poor People's March, the masses of workers, peasants and student youth in a significant number of provincial cities and capitals persisted in holding their own people's marches. Aside from tackling local issues and problems, the people in the countryside joined the attack against U.S. imperialism, feudalism and bureaucrat capitalism. Through their manifestoes and banners they expressed their support for the national democratic struggle.

The revolutionary mass actions in the countryside were likewise brutally suppressed by the Marcos fascist puppet regime. In Baguio, Cebu and Davao, many demonstrators and youth activists were beaten, arrested and charged in court. Through the local bureaucrat capitalists, the PC provincial command and local police, the Marcos puppet regime unleashed fascist violence upon the masses in the countryside. The provincial "strike forces" was purposely organized to terrorize and cow them. However, despite all these, the struggle of the masses in the provinces became more widespread.

Undeniably, the revolutionary struggle of the masses of the people in the city and countryside has been inspired by the heroic armed struggle of the New People's Army under the guidance of the Communist Party of the Philippines in Northern and Central Luzon. The victorious and successful military operations of the New People's Army in inflicting deadly blows to enemy troops have greatly encouraged the masses of workers, peasants, student youth and progressive intellectuals all throughout the country to step up their fight against their exploiters and oppressors.