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Editorial

Forge the broadest people's unity to overthrow the US-Arroyo regime

The political crisis of the ruling system seethes without letup as the socio-economic crisis intensifies.

Contradictions between the reactionary regime

and the Filipino people, as well as contradictions among the various military factions and the civil bureaucracy have turned sharper and more violent.

The elections failed to resolve their fractious-

ness. On the contrary, massive electoral fraud and violence have even made them more severe. Reactionary politicians are now trading barbs as to who among them was most responsible for corruption and the squandering of public funds.

Meanwhile, the US-Arroyo regime is heaping burden upon burden on the people with its austerity and revenue-enhancement policies. On the other hand, it silences their cries and brutally suppresses their actions.

The intensification of the political and economic crisis of the ruling system presents more opportunities to expose the real roots of the



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crisis and raise the masses' level of consciousness and struggle.

We must seize these opportunities to more rapidly forge the people's broad unity until it becomes a powerful movement that will bring down the US-Arroyo regime.

The people's broad unity may be forged based on the following burning issues, which show that the ruling regime is definitely ripe for the ousting.

1. Arroyo allows unbridled increases in oil prices, thus inflicting untold hardships on the Filipino people. Her regime favors the unrestrained accumulation of superprofits by the oil monopolies, to the further detriment of the people. She turns a deaf ear to the widespread demand to junk the oil deregulation law.

2. She has allowed prices of food and other basic goods and services to rise without letup. In fact, the latest power and water rate hikes were pushed upon her government's orders. While she she issues such orders favorable to big business, she adamantly opposes any significant increase in the minimum wage. Instead,

she concocts palliative measures such as the distribution of food coupons.

3. She has utterly failed to generate the jobs she promised. This is because she has failed to take any step towards carrying out national industrialization and land reform. She relies completely on the export of labor to alleviate the unemployment problem. Inside the country, her only claim to fame lies in the bigger number of call centers set up—a development that does not contribute significantly to the economy and is a fleeting phenomenon that is sure to vanish in a few years' time.

4. She has rendered the Philippine economy completely dependent on foreign loans, thus worsening the country's foreign indebtedness. Philippine foreign debt now comes to \$56.3 billion, the bulk of which was not spent for the people's benefit. In 2005, the Arroyo regime will be squandering up to P2 trillion on debt payments. Despite all this, Arroyo refuses to repeal the Automatic Appropriations Act, which devours a huge percentage

of public funds to service debts that did not benefit the people.

5. While religiously servicing the foreign debt, Arroyo slashes the budget for social services. Her government has even raised charges for government services, which is why the toiling masses can no longer afford to send their children even to public schools and seek medical treatment even in government facilities. Arroyo continues to reject calls to increase the salaries of government employees, spurring thousands of them go abroad, especially professionals from the health sector.

6. Her government plans to impose more taxes that will only add to the burdens already weighing heavily on the Filipino people. The imposition of additional taxes on liquor and cigarettes is already in the works. Added taxes on oil products and telecommunication services are also being planned. This only shows how ruthless Arroyo is in the face of the people's wretched conditions. On the other hand, she has no plans of returning additional tax revenues to the people in the form of improved health, education and other social services.

7. Arroyo has brought bureaucratic capitalist corruption to unprecedented heights and breadths. No less than Gloria and Mike Arroyo and their son Mikey use their power and influence to amass millions of pesos worth of bribes and participate in anomalous transactions. Arroyo protects erring officials in exchange for a portion of their ill-gotten wealth.

8. Her regime unleashes unprecedented violence against the people. It launches a violent terrorist war that mainly targets unarmed civilians and mass

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<p style="text-align: center;">Ang Bayan is published fortnightly by the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Philippines</p>	

organizations both in the cities and countryside. It desperately wants to stem the advance of the armed revolutionary movement. It justifies its actions by using supposed destabilization schemes as pretexts and uses the iron fist to suppress any opposition. Street demonstrations, especially those staged by the toiling masses to convey their democratic aspirations, are repeatedly dispersed.

9. It is set to scuttle the peace negotiations with the NDFP. It is the Arroyo government that has shut the door to the possibility of resolving the armed conflict by political means with its imposition of one-sided preconditions that violate principles previously agreed upon. One of them is a demand for a ceasefire declaration from the NDFP as a condition for continuing the talks. On the other hand, the Arroyo regime has failed to carry out its obligation under previous agreements to take positive steps to have the CPP, NPA and Comrade Jose Maria Sison removed from the US "terrorist" listing.

10. Arroyo is unparalleled in her puppetry to US imperialism. She has not only allowed but invited the US government to further its military intervention in the Philippines in the form of "joint military exercises." She showed her disregard for national sovereignty when she allowed the US to set national policy through the unilateral and baseless inclusion of the CPP, NPA and

Comrade Jose Maria Sison in its list of "foreign terrorists." She carries out economic policies in accordance with the line of "imperialist globalization" that violates the national patrimony of the Philippines and allows foreign monopoly-capitalist companies to wrest control of



strategic public enterprises to the detriment of Filipino businessmen and the Filipino people.

These significant issues are pushing the people to unite to overthrow the present government. Faced with the threat of another people's uprising, the US-Arroyo regime has been using more violent means to suppress the people. The "anti-terrorist campaign" is now an ever-common pretext.

The much-vaunted change of governmental system from presidential to parliamentary has no other objective but to fool the

people with the illusion of change. Charter change will be used to undermine civil and political rights, pave the way for the imposition of martial rule, discard the principle of economic sovereignty, auction off the national patrimony, do away with remaining restrictions on foreign investments, and allow the brazen return of US military bases and troops.

There is now a more urgent need to unite all patriotic and progressive forces, including the genuine and loyal representatives of the workers, peasants, middle forces and even civilian bureaucrats and military personnel who assail and repudiate the corruption and subservience of ruling politicians to the US.

The cooperation forged in the struggle to overthrow the US-Arroyo regime may extend to the formation of a new government that could better address the people's democratic and patriotic aspirations.

Nevertheless, the long-term solution lies with the victory of the national-democratic revolution. Through this, workers, peasants and the middle forces will be able to hold power and carry out policies that will uphold the nation's sovereignty and patrimony, eliminate imperialist, feudal and bureaucrat capitalist rule, develop the country through self-reliant means and advance a foreign policy that upholds world unity, progress, equal economic relations among all countries and world peace.



Recovery work among the Aggay in Gattaran, Cagayan

After over a decade of absence, the New People's Army (NPA) has successfully returned to Gattaran, Cagayan. The town, located in eastern Cagayan, has a long history of counterrevolutionary violence and deception in the hands of the reactionary state. Thus, the process of recovery that the NPA undertook was neither easy nor quick.

Almost all mass organizations in Gattaran disbanded in 1993. The Red fighters suffered great hardships. This resulted, on the one hand, from the active armed counterrevolutionary struggle, and weaknesses in the NPA's methods of operation, on the other.

The armed counterrevolutionary struggle was instigated by Col. Rodolfo Aguinaldo, a notorious military officer of the Marcos dictatorship who served as project officer of the counterrevolutionary "Oplan Katatagan in Cagayan" in the first half of the 1980s and as Cagayan provincial commander under the Philippine Constabulary in the latter half of that decade.

To fight the NPA, Aguinaldo established the "Cagayan 100" mainly from among the Aggay in Gattaran, inveigling them with promises of housing, money and other material things. The elements of the "Cagayan 100" used their knowledge of the local terrain to inflict military casualties on the NPA. Aguinaldo



also forcibly armed other people in the area.

In the same period, the NPA pursued the erroneous "recovery by fire" policy towards the end of the 1980s up to 1991. "Recovery by fire" was a purely militarist method of recovering a militarized area. It led the masses to harbor increasingly negative sentiments with respect to the NPA.

The comrades did not readily see that the key to recovery work among the Aggay minorities in Gattaran was to hold fast to the interests of the broad masses of the people.

Since 2002, however, large-scale mass movements in Cagayan

Valley have paved the way for the NPA's return to Gattaran. By the latter part of 2003, an NPA platoon had reached one of Gattaran's villages.

"It was difficult at first," according to Ka Dio, a leading NPA cadre operating in eastern Cagayan. "We first began at the barrio perimeter and talked to just a handful of people." It was these initial contacts who then told their relatives about the NPA's presence and belied the enemy's psywar about the Red fighters, recounted Ka Dio.

In the beginning, however, only the non-Aggay villagers were confident enough to approach

the NPA. Thus, the first organizing groups (OG) were set up among the non-minorities.

The Aggay were terribly afraid because the enemy had spread the lie that they would be skinned alive like frogs if they were to be chanced upon by the NPA. "At first, they would run away when they saw us," says Ka Dio. "Intense fear was what prevailed in their minds, what with all those intrigues."

At every opportunity, Ka Dio and his comrades would send out letters belying the enemy's intrigues, especially one that claimed that the Aggay would be punished. The problem was that most of the Aggay did not know how to read.

"Thus, we had to use drawings," Ka Leona, an NPA cadre, cheerfully recounted. "We portrayed the NPA and the Aggay as friends. We drew Red fighters and Aggay tribespeople together." Through this, we were able to draw in Aggay who had previously refused to face the NPA because of intense fear.

Ka Dio and his group launched a mass meeting on the first day they were able to enter the barrio center. The meeting focused both on agrarian revolution and a discussion of the summing-up of Colonel Aguinaldo's cruel reign, up until his punishment in June 2001. The Red fighters linked

these subjects to the present national situation as well as to the more particular local issues where high prices, low wages and usurious lending rates prevail even as prices for bird's nests, honey, rattan and other forest products remained low.

They also held cultural performances. "We showed them, through a drama depicting the life of Ka Mai, an Aggay, the cruelty and deception of Colonel Aguinaldo." The Red fighters likewise ran a documentary on martial law. The masses warmly welcomed the NPA's presentations.

News about the Red fighters' presence spread like wildfire throughout the village. One by one, the Aggay approached the guerrillas on their second day at village center to apologize.

The Red army explained to the Aggay that it was the pursuit of unity and not vengeance that prompted them to come.

"We have no intention of punishing the Aggay minorities who we know were merely deceived by the enemy. Justice has been realized with Aguinaldo's punishment," he said.

"We were a bit hesitant during that meeting," Ka Dio confided. "But then it turned out that they cooked rice and prepared chicken, fish and other food for us."

The NPA offered medical services on the third day. An Aggay comrade who was also the NPA unit's medic, helped immensely in putting the minorities more at ease with the guerrillas. This further enhanced the Aggay's confidence in the NPA.

The Red fighters summed up and explained to the Aggay masses the role of national minorities in the Philippine

national-democratic revolution. They delved deeper on how Colonel Aguinaldo oppressed and inflicted cruelty on them. "We showed them how they were used and deceived," said Ka Dio.

The NPA also explained how the Aggay are displaced from their lands three times over—because of the state's antipeople and antiminority projects, as a result of landgrabbing by landlords and big businessmen, and due to the discrimination they suffer in the hands of the majority. In contrast, the NPA explained how the revolutionary movement recognizes the rights of the Aggay to their lands.

The Red fighters also explained that as a result of discrimination, the Aggay receive ₱5-₱10 less in wages compared to the rest. "In contrast," said Ka Dio, "we advocate equal wages and higher prices for their goods." The non-Aggay masses were a big help in reducing discrimination against the minorities by explaining matters to the other barriofolk.

Barrio-level mobilizations were launched after the conduct of political studies. Through the OGs, the barriofolk demanded higher prices for honey and bird's nests.

Not long after, former CAFGU elements among the Aggay voluntarily surrendered their ammunition belts, magazines, rifle grenades and other military equipment issued by the AFP. After a few months, the son of an Aggay who was a former CAFGU element joined the NPA.

"At last," Ka Dio happily stated, "they've accepted us." 

(Based on correspondence reports from Northeastern Luzon.)

Barrio-level mobilizations were launched after the conduct of political studies... higher prices were demanded for honey and bird's nests.

NPA and AFP: Diametrically opposed in thought and deed

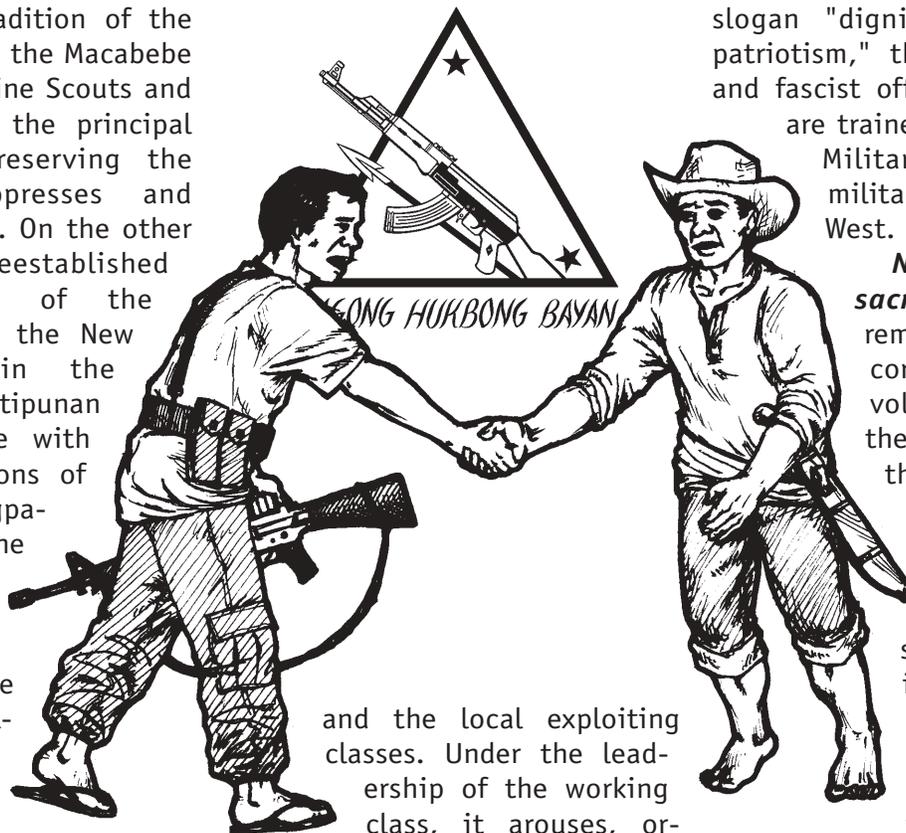
The fractiousness and demoralization within the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) and the New People's Army's (NPA) continued strengthening and advance reflect their diametrically opposed standpoints and viewpoints.

Different roots. The local and foreign ruling classes established the AFP in the tradition of the Spanish Civil Guard, the Macabebe Scouts, the Philippine Scouts and the USAFFE. It is the principal instrument for preserving the system that oppresses and exploits the people. On the other hand, the reestablished Communist Party of the Philippines formed the New People's Army in the tradition of the Katipunan and in accordance with the historical lessons of the Hukbong Mapagpalaya ng Bayan. The NPA wages armed struggle and agrarian revolution while forging the strength of the toiling masses towards the overthrow of the ruling system and the establishment of a genuine democratic state.

AFP: Mercenary, fascist. It is US imperialism, through the puppet state, that lays down the AFP's mission. In the face of the continued intensification of revolutionary struggle, this mission has revolved around "counter-insurgency," "counterterrorism" and "internal security"—in other words, counterrevolution. Even the "public service" that the AFP extends is framed in these terms.

The armed forces are consciously used as an instrument to divide the people and vanquish those who expose and oppose the puppet and antipeople state.

NPA: patriotic, pro-masses. The NPA treads the path of liberating the nation from the clutches of foreign subjugators



and the local exploiting classes. Under the leadership of the working class, it arouses, organizes and mobilizes the masses, primarily the peasants and farm workers, in carrying out genuine land reform. The people's army is built from among the people's ranks and annihilates the enemy's weak points as well as bad elements. It continuously forges the unity of the toiling masses and other classes towards vanquishing the roots of the people's suffering.

AFP: Salaries, not principle, form the real motivation for the

many who join the AFP and paramilitary groups like the Citizens Armed Forces Geographical Unit or CAFGU. Using the slogan of "serving and defending the country," the ruling classes exploit the people's poverty to churn out robot-like soldiers and assets who can be commanded any time. Behind the slogan "dignity, greatness and patriotism," the most mercenary and fascist officials and generals are trained in the Philippine Military Academy and military schools in the West.

NPA: Principle and sacrifice. It is not remuneration but the correctness of the revolution that inspires the NPA to embrace the hard and simple life that goes with arduous struggle.

Supporting, joining and persevering in the NPA is voluntary for the masses of peasants, workers, women, youth, professionals and other sectors. The NPA is open to anyone 18 years of age and older with the determination and readiness to fight for freedom. Although physical strength is important, in the all-rounded conduct of revolutionary work, there is room for those who wish to join the NPA but do not have the capacity to join the armed units.

AFP: Feared and loathed. The AFP is decadent and undisciplined. Its dealings with the

people are a litany of deception, terror, harm, verbal abuse, and cruelty. Even if AFP soldiers try to pass themselves off as NPA, their ways and dealings with barriofolk readily betray them to the masses. The troops ransack and destroy homes ostensibly in search of the NPA. They destroy crops and seize chickens and other people's property. They torture, and seldom allow their captives, whether ordinary civilian or NPA, to live. They are notorious for being abusive, drunks, rapists, womanizers and gamblers. Besides, AFP officers are likewise involved in anomalies and bigtime syndicates, and in plotting terrorist attacks against the people. Instead of putting the perpetrators on trial, the state condones and even rewards them.

NPA: Cherished and nurtured. It upholds the organizational principle of democratic centralism. The NPA implements at all levels a discipline aimed at achieving a firmer unity between the people and its army. The people are confident that the NPA will not purposely do anything that would harm their interests. Despite its lack of resources, the people's army is creative and stands ready to help the people at all times. Red fighters are known to be respectful and concerned with the life and livelihood of the people. They are forbidden from drinking and gambling. They return anything they borrow and pay the appropriate amount for anything bought or ruined. The NPA treats captives humanely and respects women. Anyone who violates these rules, whether commander or fighter, is subject to disciplinary action. The NPA humbly

accepts criticism and is ready to do rectification for any wrongdoing.

AFP: No democracy. Officers in the highest echelons of the AFP dip their filthy fingers into the gargantuan resources poured into the military. They usually live lives of comfort and luxury in mansions within and outside the country, own expensive automobiles and draw commissions from various illegal businesses. Meanwhile, ordinary soldiers make do with



their meager, irregular salaries to meet their families' needs. They are short on supplies and make do with faded uniforms and worn-out shoes. They are blindly thrust into battle and are used to unleash terror, especially in the countryside. For the AFP, "unity" means that soldiers unquestioningly follow their officers; "prestige" means ensuring that organizational problems are not

divulged. There is no freedom of expression within the AFP.

NPA: Discipline and democracy. All NPA commanders and fighters and Party cadres discuss and study the program, policies and decisions of the CPP. Commanders and fighters regularly conduct criticism and self-criticism to be more effective in performing their tasks and address and rectify weaknesses and errors. In their drive to raise their proletarian consciousness, maintain close links with the masses, raise their fighting capacity and collectively oversee the welfare of Red fighters, they conduct meetings where they freely speak their minds. They share weal and woe and receive equal rations and allowances. They collectively manage their food and other supplies, with anyone having the right to scrutinize the accounts and resources any time. Commanders and fighters jointly hold meetings before and after battles and campaigns and thus learn from each other.

COUNTERREVOLUTIONARY propaganda tries hard to cover up the utter rottenness of the AFP. The AFP, however, can only become further isolated from the Filipino people, just like the reactionary state it defends. More and more of its personnel—especially the rank-and-file who are the direct victims of corruption in the AFP—are secretly linking up with the revolutionary movement in fighting for genuine change.

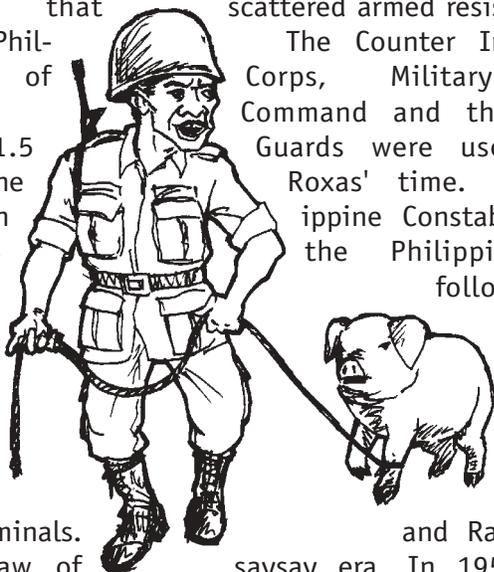
The spirit of revolution continues to burn brightly across the nation as the people and their army jointly continue reaping victories in struggle. AB

The making of an antipeople army

During the Spanish colonial era, the encomenderos organized local armies that they used to perpetrate large-scale landgrabbing. Later, thousands of peasants were armed to suppress their fellow Filipinos waging uprisings that culminated in the Philippine Revolution of 1896.

After killing 1.5 million Filipinos in the Philippine-American war (1898-1913), US imperialism organized Filipino mercenaries who were used to further subjugate Filipinos and eliminate revolutionaries who were regarded as criminals.

The Sedition Law of 1901, the Brigandage Act of 1902 and the Reconcentration Act of 1903 were all directed towards these objectives. Patriots were branded as bandits. The colonial regime sought to isolate the anti-colonialist guerrillas from the people. Those who



refused to pledge allegiance to the US flag were hunted down, imprisoned and exiled. Mass organizations, especially of workers and peasants, were suppressed harshly in the face of the people's persistent but scattered armed resistance.

The Counter Intelligence Corps, Military Police Command and the Civilian Guards were used during Roxas' time. The Philippine Constabulary and the Philippine Army

followed in their footsteps during the Elpidio Quirino

and Ramon Mag-saysay era. In 1950, fascist repression made headway with Quirino's suspension of the writ of habeas corpus.

The AFP held sway when martial rule was imposed in 1972. The US' "counterinsurgency" program was carried out to suppress the revolutionary

movement. Aside from the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) which was directed by the CIA, JUSMAG and the AID Office of Public Safety, the National Police Commission and the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) were also utilized. The "Monkees," Barrio Self-Defense Units (BSDU), Civilian Home Defense Forces (CHDF) and other paramilitary groups were organized. The conscription of the youth for counterrevolution was institutionalized through the Citizens Army Training (CAT), Preparatory Military Training (PMT) and the Reserve Officers Training Corps (ROTC).

Changing the Philippine Constabulary's name to the Philippine National Police (PNP) and the AFP's brief stint as the New AFP in 1986 was utterly pointless as their orientation is no different from that which existed under martial law. This is also the case with the Citizens Armed Forces Geographical Unit (CAFGU), which is no different from the detested CHDF, except in name. AB

The AFP and NPA are definitely different from each other—Gen. Jarque

Brig. Gen. Raymundo T. Jarque (ret.) strongly denounced the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) for being corrupt to the core even as he heaped praises on the New People's Army (NPA).

The cases that Gen. Carlos Garcia faces and the generals' attempt to cover them up are proof that the entire military bureaucracy is ridden with corruption, according to General Jarque. In an interview in Negros Occidental, Jarque said that the worst secret harbored by the military, and even of the Philippine National Police, is corruption. The former general admitted that even he was guilty of petty corruption when he was still in the AFP.

It may be recalled that Jarque shocked the country

in 1995 when he turned his back on the AFP and joined the NPA because of trumped-up cases against him. Jarque stayed for two years in the mountains and countryside of Negros to seek forgiveness from the masses who fell victim to the havoc wrought by the AFP. He surfaced in 1997 as a consultant for the NDF peace panel.

According to Jarque, the NPA follows a command system that is almost 100% better than the AFP's. He said that in the NPA, "there are no generals, and everybody is a comrade. They do not receive salaries... and everyone spends their time in the service of the country."

"Without a doubt, there is a world of difference between the AFP and the NPA," said General Jarque. AB

Response to the economic crisis: Revolution and socialist construction

(First part)

Revolution and socialist construction are the solutions to the permanent crisis besetting semicolonial and semifeudal societies like the Philippines. This was demonstrated by the Chinese people's brilliant victories from 1949 to 1976 when they established a modern and progressive Chinese nation under the banner of socialism.

The Philippine economy's current weakness and the Filipino people's widespread suffering recall the situation of semicolonial and semifeudal China and the Chinese people before their revolutionary struggle triumphed in 1949.

Like the Philippines, China then was a backward and impoverished country. It was exploited by various imperialist powers and ruled by the comprador-bourgeoisie, warlords and corrupt bureaucrat capitalists. The Chinese economy before 1949 was fraught with crisis, widespread unemployment and hunger.

China was able to overcome the semicolonial and semifeudal system when the new-democratic revolution led by the Communist

Party of China triumphed in 1949. It carried out socialist construction until 1976, producing unprecedented advances in the fields of agriculture and industry, and improvements in the people's

revolution and construction.

Agriculture

Land reform was immediately carried out after the establishment of the people's democratic government. The feudal system of land ownership was dismantled. Consequently, a large portion of the wealth created by the peasant masses and which the landlords used to appropriate, benefited the peasantry.

Collectivization was likewise advanced and the socialist spirit propagated in the countryside. Collectives and people's communes were formed. The banner of serving the people was proudly waved.

Production grew due to the peasant masses' immense socialist spirit coupled with the implementation of agricultural mechanization.

Using scientific means and through the people's assiduous efforts, land was irrigated on a wide scale, mountains leveled and land reclaimed from the sea, resulting in the expansion of lands devoted to agricultural production.

Agricultural mechanization



livelihood.

Let us review the victories of the Chinese revolution and have a glance at the changes that the Filipino people can realize in traversing the path of people's democratic revolution and socialist

was expanded. From 1970-1974, the supply of tractors, other machinery, chemical fertilizers, plastics and electricity generated by industry for agriculture were more than double the 1949-1969 level.

The production of corn, wheat, rice and other grain grew from 110 million tons in 1949 to 246 million tons in 1971. Through the painstaking efforts of the peasant masses, land productivity increased. In the celebrated case of Daqai, a barren village in the mountainous part of Shanxi province, productivity grew to over eight tons per hectare from a mere 700 kilos per hectare in 1945-49. (Compare this to the current situation in the Philippines where productivity averages less than two tons per hectare even with the use of so-called high-yielding varieties.)

The Chinese people were able to overcome natural calamities, including the widespread drought in the north and massive floods in the south in 1972.

Industry

Before 1949, China had a very weak industrial base. In the main, it was similar to the present state of Philippine industry with the handful of light industries concentrated in a few areas; where there is no heavy industry; and where foreigners enjoy exclusive control. After 20 years of socialist construction, the Chinese people were able to establish a self-reliant and complete industrial system. In 1972, total steel production reached 23 million

tons, 14,500% greater than the 158,000 tons produced in 1949. China was likewise able to produce various new products from steel including the high temperature resistance alloys, precision alloys and ultra-high-strength steel used in constructing the gigantic bridges spanning the Yangzi River, huge seafaring vessels and ultrasonic jets. (In the Philippines, even sewing needles are imported.)

The steel industry was the key that enabled the Chinese people



to develop industries that created machinery and establish various other enterprises on a large scale. The overall production of machinery doubled in 1965-1972. Under the banner of socialism, industry in China produced tractors, land vehicles, equipment for the metallurgical, petroleum and chemical industries as well as scientific instruments.

By 1974, China could produce in a few days' time the equivalent

of all the electricity it generated in 1949. Many hydro and thermal plants were established throughout the entire country to reach the far corners of China.

The petroleum industry was developed. Until 1949, most of China's crude oil was imported because local production could only manage 120,000 tons. This has been surpassed many times over. With the establishment of the people's democratic republic, large-scale oil exploration, extraction and refining were carried out. By 1963, local crude oil production was sufficient to meet the needs of all of China. Oil production further grew with the discovery of deposits at Daching that by 1970 was gushing 50 million tons of crude oil every year.

Mining was developed. In 1949, there were only 20 coal mines. By 1974, there were over 800 modern coal mines producing enough coal to meet China's needs.

The chemical industry was developed. From nothing or practically nothing, China was able to produce chemical fertilizers, medicines and synthetic fabrics, among

others.

Light industries were developed, producing cotton textiles, soap, watches, sewing machines, cameras, bicycles and many others. The distribution of light industries throughout the country improved. Even remote areas like the Tibetan Plateau, which is among the highest places in the entire world, were able to build modern paper, leather, sugar and match factories. AB

Martyred Red commander honored in Western Mindanao

OVER 1,000 people militantly marched on November 5 in Pilar, Misamis Occidental to carry the remains of Mario Bagondol (Ka Orlan) to his final resting place.

Ka Orlan, one of the leading Red commanders of the New People's Army (NPA) and a Party cadre in the Western Mindanao region, died on October 28, a day after he was wounded in battle in Barangay Datagan, Sindangan, Zamboanga del Norte.

In a statement, NPA regional spokesperson Ismael Marte said that aside from friends and members of Ka Orlan's family, among those who joined the march were supporters of the revolutionary movement. Some of them carried placards and streamers assailing the US-Arroyo regime.

Prior to this, the National De-mocratic Front in Western Mindanao (NDF-WMR) paid tribute to Ka Orlan. In a statement on October 30, NDF-WMR spokesperson Ka Adan Sindapan said that Ka Orlan died while abiding by the Communist Party's call to intensify the armed revolution nationwide in response to the unprecedented crisis of the ruling system.

The bravery and discipline that Ka Orlan displayed while alive is admirable, said Sindapan. From being an ordinary fighter, he became one of the finest Red commanders tested in many battles and who led many victories amid the circuitous and difficult road of waging armed revolution in Western Mindanao.

Sindapan belittled the AFP's boasts with regard to Ka Orlan's loss. Such boasting has a hollow ring, he said, since the reactionary state continues to rot away and the fascist soldiers defending it are likewise rotten and demoralized. It is the system's rottenness, said Sindapan, that pushes many poor and oppressed people to take the road of revolutionary armed resistance.

Subanen minorities oppose mining operations in Zamboanga del Norte

SUBANEN minorities expressed their opposition to the operations of Toronto Ventures, Inc. in Mount Canatuan in Tabayo, Siocon, Zamboanga del Norte. TVI is a Canadian-owned mining company.

In an open letter last October, Jose "Boy" Anoy, *timuay* (tribal leader) of the Subanen in Siocon, said that in its gold exploration efforts, the TVI has desecrated the peak of Mount Canatuan, which the Subanen consider sacred.

The Subanen assailed TVI for responding to their protest actions with violence with the help of the Civilian Armed Forces Geographical Unit. Consequently, a number of Subanen tribespeople as well as other residents of Siocon have either been killed or injured.

The Subanen are concerned that if TVI's intrusion is not prevented, they would suffer the same fate as other national minority groups who have been driven off their land due to open-pit mining, logging, mega dams and other projects more beneficial to big business.

NDF-EV condemns "Leyte Landing" celebration

NATIONAL Democratic Front-Eastern Visayas (NDF-EV) spokesperson Fr. Santiago Salas condemned the celebration of the "Leyte Landing" on October 20.

The "Leyte Landing," which refers to the arrival in the island in 1944 of American troops led by Gen. Douglas MacArthur, is commemorated yearly because it supposedly signaled the Filipino people's liberation by the Americans from the hands of the Japanese.

In a statement, Fr. Salas denounced the commemoration as an insult to the Filipino people as it suggests that they owe a debt of gratitude to US imperialism for their national sovereignty. He further belied that the "Leyte Landing" was proof of friendship between the US and the Philippines. He recalled that it was invading American troops who killed at least 50,000 Samareños to suppress the anticolonial uprising in the island in the early part of the 20th century.

Fr. Salas also assailed the Leyte Landing organizers for disrespecting the poor old veterans who did the actual fighting against the Japanese invaders when MacArthur left the Philippines. He said that the old veterans were simply rounded up for display during the celebration, but were not even invited to the official banquet. Only representatives of US imperialism, the Arroyo regime, and the ruling classes of big comprador-bourgeois and big landlords feasted during the banquet.

Strike paralyzes Central Azucarera de Tarlac

OPERATIONS at the Central Azucarera de Tarlac (CAT) have been paralyzed since November 6 when workers led by the CAT Labor Union (CATLU), together with hundreds of peasants from Hacienda Luisita Inc. (HLI) and their families launched protest actions. The strikers' barricades in front of CAT's two gates have prevented the entry of trucks laden with sugarcane from the towns of Tarlac, Pampanga, Pangasinan and Nueva Ecija. CAT, which is located in San Miguel town and owned by the Cojuangco family, is the largest sugar refinery in Luzon.

CATLU is demanding a P100 increase in the daily

wage and a P30,000 CBA signing bonus for every worker. The United Luisita Workers' Union, on the other hand, opposes the layoff of 327 of its members, the reduced workdays, and the extremely low wages of farm workers (who receive a mere P9.50 per day).

The protest actions were supported by Bayan Muna, Anakpawis, Nagkakaisang Manggagawa ng Tarlac-Kilusang Mayo Uno (NMT-KMU), Alyansa ng mga Magbubukid sa Tarlac-KMP, BAYAN-Tarlac, Alyansa ng mga Manggagawang Bukid sa Hacienda Luisita (AMBALA), League of Filipino Students and Anakbayan.

2 Maoist parties in India merge

THE Communist Party of India (Maoist) or CPI(M) was formed on September 21 with the merger of the two largest Maoist organizations in the country—the Communist Party of India (Marxist-Leninist) (People's War) or CPI (ML)(PW) and the Maoist Communist Center of India or MCCI. The "unified PLGA" (People's Liberation Guerrilla Army) was also formed from the merger of the People's Guerrilla Army of the CPI(ML)(PW) and the PLGA of the MCCI.

Guerrilla fighters and activists from both the party and mass organizations were in attendance during the merger, which was carried out inside a guerrilla zone in India.

In its declaration, the newly formed party said that the merger was "in response to the wishes and aspirations of the working class, peasantry and all oppressed masses of the country for a genuine proletarian party that can lead them towards revolutionary change for the establishment of a new democratic society which can advance towards socialism and communism."

The CPI(M) continues to oppose right and "left" deviations, particularly revisionism. It will strive to unify all groups and individuals who are genuinely Maoist but remain outside the merger party.

The CPI(M) released five founding documents: "Hold High the Bright Red Banner of Marxism-Leninism-Maoism," "Strategy and Tactics of the Indian Revolution," "Political Resolution on the International and Domestic Situation" and the party program and constitution.

Aside from expounding on its stand and views on important issues concerning India, the CPI(M) declared its continuing support for people's wars led by Maoist parties in the Philippines, Peru, Turkey and other countries, besides

supporting all people's struggles against imperialism and reaction.

90 demonstrators massacred in Thailand

OVER 90 demonstrators were killed after some 1,000 military troops attacked a peaceful rally of about 3,000 Muslims in Tak Bai district, Narathiwat province, southern Thailand on October 25. Six demonstrators were immediately killed in the violent assault. Up to 1,300 were arrested, bound to each other and crammed into tarp-covered trucks. After the trucks journeyed six hours, 85 of those arrested were found lifeless due to asphyxiation and convulsions while others were crushed to death. Sixty demonstrators remain missing to date.

The demonstration was launched to oppose the growing repression of Muslims in Thailand by Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra's government in the name of the "anti-terrorist campaign."

Human rights groups have reported 17 activists and human rights advocates killed or missing in Thailand under the Thaksin regime. One of them is Somchai Neelaphajit, a human rights lawyer who defended five Muslim men accused of having links with "Muslim extremists." He has not been surfaced since his abduction in early 2004.