

ANG

PAHAYAGAN NG PARTIDO KOMUNISTA NG PILIPINAS
PINAPATIBAYAN NG
MARKISMO - LENINISMO - KASAPANG MAJ ZEDONG



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CONTENTS

EDITORIAL p. 1

PARTY RECRUITMENT MUST BE
SYSTEMATIC AND LARGE-SCALE p. 2

PESO SINKS AS IMPERIALIST
ECONOMIC STRATEGY FAILS p. 4

FRUSTRATE THE ENEMY'S
MILITARY CAMPAIGNS! p. 6

LOGISTICS WORK FOR NPA
SUPPORTS THE WAR EFFORT p. 8

TECHOCRATS: 'AMERICAN EYES'
HELP MARCOS SERVE IMPERIALISM p. 11

REGIME SENDS 'BAD EGGS'
TO NPA GUERRILLA FRONTS p. 12

NEWS p. 13

INTERNATIONAL p. 14

EDITORIAL

ELECTIONS, DEMOCRACY, AND THE PEOPLE

The US-Marcos dictatorship is getting set to hold, in 1984, another in its series of fake elections, plebiscites and referendums.

From the first "plebiscite" under martial law in January 1973 to the ridiculous "presidential election" in 1981, the regime has repeatedly tried to cover up its illegitimate and tyrannical rule with a thin cloak of "democratic consultations." Coercing and deceiving the people to vote, it has brazenly falsified their will, to justify its continued monopoly of political power in the Philippines. There is no reason to believe that the next exercise--to "elect" the members of a completely inept Batasang Pambansa--will turn out to be different from the others.

Indeed, the 1984 "elections" can only involve an even greater mockery of the democratic process, as they will be held in a malevolent atmosphere of escalating state terrorism and brutal extortion of the people's livelihood. As the people's sufferings intensify, their just struggles are brutally repressed. In recent months, militant workers' organizations have been suppressed, and their leaders and organizers jailed, if not murdered; massive military operations have been mounted against the peasant masses in the countryside; intellectuals and religious have been harassed and arrested; legally constituted organizations have been threatened and spied upon. Even the politicians have not been spared by the notorious Presidential Commitment Order, which has been stuffing the country's prisons with thousands of political detainees.

These realities were apparently disregarded by former Senator Salvador Laurel and a few other politicians when they recently issued an appeal to the "armed opposition" to "give democratic processes a last chance" by supporting the regime's bogus elections.

What democratic processes can be expected to work under the dictatorship, whose very existence contradicts the principle of democracy? To whom should Laurel have addressed the appeal: Is it the revolutionary movement that bears the responsibility for the raging civil war, or is it the puppet fascist regime, with its bloody and corrupt rule? Do the people seek leaders who would avert the national-democratic revolution, or leaders who would show the way to that revolution's victory, to the attainment of genuine democracy and independence?

In the last twelve years under the US-Marcos dictatorship, the Filipino masses have awakened to a fuller understanding of their interests and rights. To defend and advance these interests and rights, they have given their talent and strength, their sons and daughters, their meager cups of rice. These sacrifices have not been made in vain. Persisting in armed struggle and building the broad unity of the people in overthrowing the joint rule of US imperialism and the Marcos clique, the national-democratic movement has forged steadily ahead. It has emerged as the most powerful, consistent and farsighted political force fighting the dictatorship today.

On the other hand, the US-Marcos "democratic processes" have yielded, at best, only a few token concessions to the oppositionist politicians. Every "election" that they have made the mistake of joining merely gave the Marcos clique another chance to humiliate them and convince the US that it is still their best bet to safeguard imperialist interests in the Philippines.

It is, after all, US imperialism that the fascist clique wishes to please in staging "elections." As long as "democratic processes" seem to operate, the imperialists can justify their support for a regime that has richly earned the hatred of the Filipino people.

The revolutionary people must not waste their life-or-death struggle against the dictatorship in order to tangle seats in the reactionary parliament. Knowing that the only way to topple the US-Marcos clique is to succeed in armed revolution, they are determined to conquer all the obstacles that lie ahead. They have made that choice. Others, too, must make theirs: to block the people's advance, as enemies? or to march with them, as brothers and friends?

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PARTY RECRUITMENT MUST BE SYSTEMATIC AND LARGE-SCALE

In the past two years, thousands of new members have been added to the roster of the Party, as its organizations have responded to the call of boldly expanding the Party without allowing undesirable elements to get in.

Membership growth does not merely signify the Party's expansion. It also reflects the achievements in armed struggle and the revolutionary mass movement, the spread of the underground movement, and an increased capacity to undertake new tasks for the advance of the revolution.

But there is a need to recruit a greater number of reliable members to carry out the increasing tasks facing the Party and its organizations. And large-scale recruitment can only be accomplished if it is done in a systematic way.

Requirements

Present conditions are excellent for increasing Party membership. Because of the intensified oppression and suffering of the people, particularly the workers and peasants, many of them are deciding to act in order to overthrow the rule of US imperialism and the landlord class and comprador bourgeoisie led by the Marcos clique. On the other hand, the revolutionary movement continues to reap victories, winning the people over to take the road of revolution.

Advanced elements who could be recruited into the Party emerge in the course of mass struggles and active participation in mass organizations. For a certain period of time, the progress of activists is keenly observed to determine who are eligible for the Party.

Workers and peasants undergo one year of activist work before they are considered for candidate membership in the Party, and two years are required for activists from the petty bourgeoisie.

Being an activist does not mean carrying out tasks blindly, but consciously doing one's work based on an understanding of the present conditions, the principles of the national-democratic revolution, the principle of democratic centralism within the organization, and the recognition of the various tasks which advance the people's democratic revolution. Thus, it is necessary for every activist to take a mass course on Philippine society and the national-democratic revolution.

From time to time, every Party organization should make an assessment of the activists it is leading so as to pick out those who can be recruited as candidate members. Of course, the basic requirements for recruits to the Party is the acceptance of the constitution and program of the Party and its guiding theory--Marxism-Leninism-Mao Zedong Thought.

In choosing Party recruits, their ideological progress and record of political work are carefully assessed. The history and personal background of each recruit are also taken into account, and matters requiring clarification are investigated. This step helps them by showing them how to develop their positive traits and overcome their weaknesses. It also prevents undesirable elements from getting into the Party.

Large-scale recruitment

From late 1968, when the membership stood at less than a hundred, Party membership increased to more than 2,000 in 1972. But in the next few years, the Party grew at a slower rate, and what's more, remained largely a cadre party.

Since 1976, after "Our Urgent Tasks" had begun to be implemented, Party membership grew rapidly. But a lot more new members are needed today for the

tasks confronting the Party--in the territorial organizations, the people's army, various lines of work, and even administrative organs.

Although there are more Party members now of worker origin, their number is still small compared to the number of peasant comrades. Being the most advanced detachment of the proletariat, it stands to reason that the Party should redouble its efforts to recruit more workers, especially those in industry.

In guerrilla zones, the recruitment of activist peasants should be continued, while paying more attention to the farm workers and workers in local enterprises. In places where there are communities of national minorities, efforts should be made to organize them and recruit activists from their ranks.

Party work requiring particular skills is increasing and becoming more complicated, and for this, attention should be given to recruiting students and professionals, especially those with special skills such as doctors, engineers, technicians and the like.

The need for large-scale recruitment in the countryside and cities can be fulfilled if many activists are developed. With the intensification of people's war, conditions are becoming more favorable for the emergence of large numbers of activists. And to recruit many Party members from their ranks, they must be systematically and closely guided in their development.

Systematisation

Systematic large-scale recruitment cannot be accomplished if there are no basic Party units--local branches and Party groups in mass organizations--integrated with the masses and developing activists through mass organizations and mass movements.

Party branches and groups make concrete plans for enlarging Party membership. They prepare activists to become Party members through study courses, guidance and proper tasking, while stimulating and channeling their enthusiasm and initiative.

After a certain period, and according to the plans of the Party units concerned, advanced elements can be recommended as candidate members. Thus, collective efforts bring in a bigger number of recruits to the Party, compared to the uncoordinated recruitment efforts of individual comrades.

The lowest level in the Party organization which can admit candidate members is the section committee or subsection committee (branch executive committee), section committee of an NPA platoon, and the Party group of a big mass organization. In some regions, advanced elements are given an initial orientation course on the Party and basic communist attitudes before they take the pledge as candidate members.

The duties and rights of candidate members are similar to those of full members, with two exceptions: they cannot vote or be voted upon, and they have no voice in decision-making within the Party. Their rights include the right to participate in discussions during Party meetings, to submit proposals, statements or complaints to any Party organization or organ at any level, and to criticize any Party organization, organ or member in Party meetings.

The section committee (or its equivalent) also makes plans for the development of candidate members into full members. Nevertheless, it is the duty of each Party unit to review periodically the status of its members, making sure that the formal standing of each one truly reflects their proper organizational status. Many Party units are remiss on this score: some are good at recruiting candidate members, but do not give due importance to developing them into full members; or they treat long-standing candidate members as full members without going through the proper procedures; or they leave the development of a candidate member to the unit where he or she will be transferred, while the unit accepting candidate members from other units allow them to remain as candidate members longer than necessary.

Party units should include in their program the development of candidate members into full members. Compared to activists, greater attention is accorded to candidate members in giving particular guidance, proper tasking and study courses.

The district committee is also responsible for following up the ideological, political and organizational development of candidate members. Education is the main way of ensuring the ideological development of candidate members. It is important for systematic and large-scale recruitment to have a group of instructors at the district level, to attend to the schooling of candidate members in the various Party sections and the people's army units.

Becoming a full member would depend on how a candidate member has fulfilled his or her tasks and developed during the period of candidacy as well as the period of being a mass activist. It is also necessary to examine once again the candidate's personal history and background. Those whose record and ideological development have been satisfactory should of course become full members, if there is no question regarding their personal background.

Thus, through concrete plans of Party units, recruitment of large numbers to the Party is systematized: adequate steps are taken to prepare candidate members and they become full members in due time.

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PEÑO SINKS AS IMPERIALIST ECONOMIC STRATEGY FAILS

The fascist dictatorship further devalued the peso last June 23. From an exchange rate of ₱10.80 to one dollar, it fixed the peso-dollar rate at ₱11.00 in a desperate attempt to stabilize the currency, which has been sinking at an alarming rate.

Before the recent devaluation, a pound of coconut oil worth ₱9.14 sold abroad for about \$0.21. The regime seeks to be able to offer the same product at a cheaper price in the world market. With devaluation, the same amount and peso price of coconut oil can now be sold at the lower dollar price of \$0.19 a pound. But the coconut farmers' income, while remaining the same, has less value than before.

On the other hand, what before amounted to ₱306 that the Philippines used to pay for a \$30 barrel of crude oil, will now cost ₱330.

In short, the Philippines now needs more pesos to pay for what it buys from other countries, while selling its commodities at lower prices. On the other hand, US imperialism will now be able to get raw materials more cheaply, and sell its commodities at even higher peso prices.

The immediate problem that the regime sought to solve by the peso devaluation was the rapid increase in the balance of payments (BOP) deficit [AB, January 1963]. The dollar earnings of the Philippine economy have always fallen below the dollar expenditures, thus resulting in a yearly deficit.

By the first half of this year, the BOP deficit had already reached close to \$600 million, prompting the regime to adjust the projected deficit for the whole year of 1963 from \$600 million to \$500 million. (The deficit for 1962 was \$1,135 million.) These large deficits are mainly due to losses in foreign trade.

By lowering the value of the peso vis-a-vis the dollar, the regime hopes to encourage exports to earn more dollars and discourage imports to save dollars. But devaluation, if ever, can only temporarily ease the BOP problem. This prob-

low is only a result and manifestation of the intensifying crisis of a semi-colonial and semifeudal economy.

Imperialist domination

The chronic scarcity of dollars and the growing yearly BOP deficit are brought about by imperialist domination of the Philippine economy [AS, April 1983]. US imperialism has strengthened feudal and semifeudal exploitation in agriculture and has prevented the country from achieving genuine industrialization and economic self-reliance. By doing so, it maintains the Philippines as an exporter of raw materials and few light manufactures and an importer of finished products. Exploiting the backwardness of the economy, US imperialism buys cheap and sells dear to extract superprofits.

Colonial trade is made even more unequal as the crisis of imperialism intensifies and it passes on its burden to semicolonies such as the Philippines. It buys fewer goods and at further depressed prices, and dumps its products here in bigger volume and at a higher cost.

The deficit is still increased by huge profit remittances made by US monopoly firms and other foreign investors in the Philippines. Dollars are also depleted by the high cost of equipment and materials imported by the regime's infrastructure programs as well as by the high import requirements of comprador bourgeois firms, the biggest of which belong to the Marcos clique. Dollars are spent not only for actual goods and services contracted abroad, but also to cover the added costs of graft and corruption.

To cover up the yearly deficit in the BOP, the US-Marcos dictatorship resorts to massive borrowing from abroad. Loans allow an artificial way out of the BOP problem. But the servicing of loans in the form of repayments and interest is a constant strain on the dollar holdings of the Philippines, thus adding to the BOP deficit. Furthermore, owing to their onerous requirements and the fact that they open up the economy to further imperialist exploitation, these loans have exacerbated not only the BOP problem but also the crisis of the economy as a whole.

Export-oriented strategy

Well aware that the intensifying crisis is bound to affect the stability of its rule in the Philippines, US imperialism imposed the export-oriented strategy in the past decade. In the last few years, however, the failure of the strategy became evident. It could not escape the inherent contradictions of a semicolonial and semifeudal economy.

Feudalism continues to stunt the growth of agricultural production, including the production of traditional exports. And since there has been no genuine industrialization, the production of light manufactures for export relies heavily on expensive imports, greatly reducing the profits from the sale of these commodities abroad.

Global capitalist recession was the external factor that contributed to the failure of the export-oriented strategy. It further brought down the volume and price of Philippine exports and intensified protectionism in the capitalist countries against light manufactures and other products from colonies and semicolonies.

Beaten by failure, US imperialism now pushes for "reforms" in its strategy. Through the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, it has instructed the puppet regime to implement the so-called "structural adjustment program" [AS, May 31, 1981], which includes the recent peso devaluation. On the whole, the program actually intends to remove all remaining obstacles to the entry of foreign capital and commodities.

Squeezes

Devaluation has an immediate and broad effect on the livelihood of the people. It pushes up the prices of imports, of which oil makes up a considerable portion.

Earlier this year, the regime found it difficult to raise the price of oil products as the world price of oil went down. It has now tied up this price increase with devaluation. In raising the price of imported oil, the regime not only gave additional profits to the oil companies but also took the opportunity to substitute new taxes for the consumer price equalization fund (a disguised tax on consumers for the benefit of oil companies).

Devaluation also increases the burden of the people in other ways.

Increased cost of production wipes out profits derived from the increased peso value of exports; in some instances, higher costs may even exceed profits. To maintain the overall level of profits that capitalists enjoyed before devaluation, workers will be forced to produce more. In short, the exploitation of workers will be intensified.

On the other hand, because more pesos will now be needed to service the country's huge foreign debt, the regime will impose heavier taxes on the people.

As a result of all these, the cost of living increases. Workers and other wage earners will find their earnings most inadequate, while peasants will find the cost of farm inputs much higher. For the few remaining Filipino manufacturers, the threat of bankruptcy looms larger.

Education and struggle

Imperialism's export-oriented strategy for the Philippines cannot prevent the intensification of the economic crisis. Neither the structural adjustment program nor the temporary recovery of the US economy will make the strategy work. The US-Marcos dictatorship will continually be troubled with trade and BOP deficits. Again and again, it will resort to more foreign loans and further peso devaluation. The basic contradictions of a semicolonial and semifeudal society leave no way out of the crisis except a national-democratic revolution.

The more the crisis intensifies, the more the people readily embrace the revolutionary solution to their economic misery. The Party makes full use of major developments in the economic situation to expose further US imperialism and its puppet regime. The imposition of a heavier economic burden on the people should be answered with greater mobilization of the basic masses of the people, especially the peasantry, in the anti-imperialist struggle; the broadening and intensification of the economic struggle of the people as a whole; and the further advance of the antifascist, anti-imperialist and antifeudal movement.

* * *

FRUSTRATE THE ENEMY'S MILITARY CAMPAIGNS!

Top AFP brass gathered at Camp Aguinaldo recently to assess developments in their military operations against the revolutionary movement in various parts of the country.

"The government has been successful in its effort to win the hearts and minds of the people in areas where the insurgents operate. Operation Katatagan is a success," the AFP spokesman declared afterwards. In talking this way, he tried to hide the real topic discussed at the meeting and, naturally, the real assessment that was made.

The generals who attended, however, knew very well that Operation Katatagan and their military campaigns have been failures in the face of the broad masses' stiffening resistance to the reactionary rule of the US-Marcos clique. The New People's Army continues to show greater strength.

Operation Katatagan--featuring charity projects by the AFP and the cooperation of local reactionaries--is merely a cover-up and a sop for the bloody crimes committed by fascist troops against the masses in the countryside.

Enemy campaigns

Two major campaigns are currently being launched by the AFP against NPA guerrilla fronts, on the Quezon-Bicol border and in southeastern Mindanao. Smaller campaigns and operations are being simultaneously carried out in many other guerrilla fronts throughout the land.

The objective of these campaigns, on the strategic plane, is to decisively smash the entire revolutionary forces--the Communist Party, the people's army and revolutionary mass organizations--in a relatively extensive area.

Confronting the revolutionary movement's armed struggle in the early years, the reactionaries aimed to "nip it in the bud" (as they tried in Isabela in 1971-74). Today, they are busy trying to "contain" its progress and spread.

Far from being stopped in its growth while it was still extremely small and weak, the people's army only struck deeper roots among the masses, its guerrilla fronts even multiplied and expanded, and the intense fire of battle only steeled the NPA's Red fighters.

And so, instead of being able to concentrate a superior force in one or two narrow fronts as before, the AFP's personnel and supply lines today are stretched exceedingly thin. It cannot deploy even 20 percent of its overall forces in the few areas where it wants to concentrate.

Each military campaign is carried out according to a comprehensive plan, involves big forces under a unified command, extends over a wide area of operations, and lasts for a certain period of time.

In launching major military operations in the recent past, as in Oplan Cadena de Amor in Quezon-Bicol, the enemy has given much attention to intelligence work, paywar tactics, and maximizing the use of its superior transport and communications facilities. Troop formations have been getting bigger and bigger. It will also be noted that top generals have been taking a direct hand in running these campaigns.

Military operations

A military campaign consists of a series of operations or actions. AFP operations may be classified into three: strike operations (also called search and destroy operations), consolidation operations (also called clear and hold operations), and related operations, which are distinct from the other two but are carried out to support them.

Actions that fall under strike operations--patrols, raids, encirclements, pursuit, ambushes--aim to flush out and crush the NPA's guerrilla forces. The enemy also makes use of these operations to impress the people, hoping to terrorize and demoralize them with a show of force. Mobility is one characteristic of strike operations, and many regular forces are involved.

The main objective of consolidation operations, on the other hand, is to control and destroy the NPA's mass base, and restore or strengthen reactionary political power in the area.

Besides harassment and declaring "free fire zones" (where anyone may be shot on sight), consolidation operations also include arresting, beating up, jailing or murdering those suspected to have links with the underground; prohibiting meetings and mass actions; setting up checkpoints; requiring the registration of all residents; forcing some individuals to make reports and be responsible for any abnormal incident; and so on.

Participating in consolidating actions, aside from regular troops and paramilitary forces, are local government officials, reactionary civic organizations, and anti-communist fanatical sects or groups.

The third category of enemy operations includes spying on the masses, psychological operations and civil affairs operations, meaning civic action programs and programs to control the local population and resources [AB, March 31, 1982]. "XXX" projects are also being set up in selected places, to deceive the masses and entice them with promises in exchange for "returning to the folds of the law." [AB, August 1982]

US and AFP

The concept underlying the AFP's counter-revolutionary ("counter-insurgency") tactics was first refined more than 30 years ago, when US imperialism launched a massive campaign to crush the old people's army. While puppet troops conspicuously built artesian wells and toilets in Central Luzon, they were also ferociously suppressing the revolutionary masses and the people's army.

From that success stored by the armed counter-revolution (which may be traced to grave mistakes made by the old Party's revisionist leadership in laying down the politico-military line), techniques combining deception and violence are being taught by US imperialism today to its puppet regimes confronted by popular armed struggles for national liberation. Similar operations, for example, are presently being promoted by the US in El Salvador in Central America.

Although the imperialist hand is well concealed in the AFP's operations and campaigns, there is no doubt that it is the US that advises and supplies the puppet army with its seeds. And the moment the Marcos regime becomes unable to stop, on its own, the victorious advance of the revolution, it would not be farfetched to expect direct US military intervention in the Philippine civil war.

Frustrating AFP campaigns

The revolutionary movement has not yet acquired sufficient military and political strength to smash the enemy's military campaigns.

Using three weapons--armed struggle, mass mobilizations, and weakening the enemy from within--we can, however, disrupt and frustrate these campaigns.

Of the three, the main weapon is armed struggle, whose current strategy is "make the enemy punch the air, and strengthen our forces by wiping out small enemy forces one by one." Our guerrilla forces avoid the enemy's big and strong forces and operations, while waging tactical offensives that wipe him out where he is weak. At the same time, supportive actions are carried out by the people's partisans and militia.

The NPA firmly holds on to the line of waging guerrilla warfare, multiplies and strengthens its fullfledged guerrilla units (GUs), partisan units and militia units, and expands and consolidates its guerrilla fronts. In carrying out military actions, the NPA command ensures coordination between the guerrilla zones and bases on one hand, and the white areas on the other; between the GUs, militia, and organized masses; between the guerrilla warfare of the GUs and partisan warfare; and between several guerrilla fronts.

On the other hand, the broad organized masses militantly undertake actions to protest enemy intimidation and violence. As they participate in various forms of political struggle, the people realize their own strength, and become more resolute in joining, defending and advancing the revolution to victory.

The people's activities generate strong public opinion against fascist abuses. In addition, these activities slow down or hinder the implementation of enemy measures against the people.

The masses' direct contribution to the armed struggle is of course priceless, especially when it comes to keeping close watch over the enemy and providing support services to the people's army.

Widespread and strong underground mass organizations, under the leadership of a well-consolidated Party organization on the district level, are the key to the people's mobilization during an enemy campaign.

Weakening the enemy's determination to fight is the third weapon in frustrating an enemy campaign. The masses play an important role here in convincing relatives and friends in the mercenary ranks to turn their backs on their reactionary masters. Objective reasons for enemy demoralization at present are the sharp conflicts between civilians and military officials, between regular troops and police forces, and between the soldiers and their officers.

Perspective

The enemy's military operations and campaigns will surely intensify with the revolutionary movement's march forward in all guerrilla fronts. The enemy's violent insistence on blocking the advance of the revolution, and on restoring its reactionary rule over extensive areas of the country, indicate the extent of the losses it has suffered with the ever growing successes of the people's war for freedom and democracy.

There is no room for the revolutionary forces to be overconfident, especially in areas where the enemy has not yet unleashed his fury. We must be prepared to meet any change in the situation, be good at analyzing the facts, and be alert to take advantage of every opportunity to advance the revolution in an all-around way.

. . .

LOGISTICS WORK FOR NPA SUPPORTS THE WAR EFFORT

-- The people's guerrillas approached the truck they had ambushed and quickly seized the enemy's weapons--an M50 machinegun, two M203s, and five armalite rifles. They also confiscated all the magazines and over a thousand rounds of ammunition; one guerrilla had to use a knife to remove the ammunition belt from under one of the dead soldiers.

-- The local peasant association was holding a meeting. How much grain a month could they set aside for the people's army? The members carefully weighed their desire to set aside a big amount as their regular contribution, against the worsening economic conditions in the area. They linked this question to the task of advancing the agrarian revolution and increasing their production.

-- A jeep was parked beside a house in the city. Comrades briskly loaded it with boxes containing assorted items--20 meters of cloth to make pants and other clothes; big sheets of plastic for making tents and linings; OMT uniforms; jackets, shoes, dark-colored t-shirts; and medicines labeled with their respective names and uses. After a few minutes, the jeep was on its way to a guerrilla front.

-- A Party cadre was talking with an ally of the revolution. The lively conversation centered on the latest developments in the political situation, and the cadre was busy answering her friend's many questions. Before the visit was over, the ally handed her an envelope which had been set aside earlier. Within a few hours, this was turned over to her collective.

By such activities of comrades in the countryside and the cities, we are able to provide for the logistical needs of the armed struggle. With the accelerated growth of the New People's Army and with the rapidly rising level of military confrontations throughout the archipelago, the NPA's logistical requirements likewise increase.

The revolutionary ranks should therefore grasp firmly the principles that guide us in logistics work, and also the importance of systematically carrying out the entire task and its components, in order to maximize the people's growing ability to give material support to the advance of the revolutionary war.

Principles

Our logistics work for the armed struggle is guided by the principle of self-reliance and that of simple living and hard work.

While we seek to get maximum support from the peoples of other countries for our revolution, we rely principally on our own efforts and resources. We acquire our firearms and other supplies in the course of fighting, and based on the growing breadth and strength of the revolutionary movement's political power and influence throughout the country.

Considering the archipelagic character of our country and the need to deploy our guerrilla forces in widely separated fronts, it is imperative for revolutionary forces on every island and in every guerrilla front to be self-reliant over extended periods of time.

The NPA's growing logistical requirements and the further deterioration of the country's economic condition underscore the importance of simple living and hard work. Every comrade, whether inside or outside the guerrilla fronts, must fully realize that each centavo saved from non-essential expenses adds up to a substantial contribution to meet the essential needs of healthy and well-armed Red fighters.

Systematization

Logistics work must be undertaken systematically, specially as this task progressively becomes broader and becomes more and more detailed. Lack of systematization in any line of work prevents us from maximizing the full capacity of the revolutionary forces for the task, results in the neglect of some parts, and causes unnecessary duplication of efforts in other parts.

Systematization of logistics work covers the setting of realistic targets; the enumeration of principal, secondary and other tasks and their schedules; the assignment of specific tasks for every unit and every unit member, along with the mechanism for supervision; and regular assessment of the work in order to solve the problems that may arise along the way and further the effort to attain the targets that have been set.

Party committees in every guerrilla front and district should make and carry out plans for gathering and stockpiling food, medicine and ammunition, and undertake the proper budgeting and accounting of these supplies.

Sources

Since the New People's Army was founded in 1969, its weapons and ammunition have been acquired mainly from the enemy in the battlefield. Tactical offensives have been planned and carried out primarily to seize firearms and ammunition. Through careful planning and strict discipline, we have been able to avoid using more bullets than necessary. These past years, thousands of highpowered rifles have been captured by the NPA in big and small tactical offensives, a growing number of which were carried out without a single shot being fired.

Revolutionary activists giving full play to their initiative have been seizing enemy firearms, thus contributing in no small measure to logistics work.

As we increasingly stretch the enemy's military forces more and more thinly over wide areas, more opportunities arise for arms confiscation.

The broad masses of the people in the countryside and in the cities are an inexhaustible source of supplies for the people's army. There are the mass organizations and the people they influence and mobilize in their respective sectors. Then, there are also a growing number of better off allies and friends who are ready to give increasing amounts for the cause. What we have collected from them has been sufficient so far, but we have to solicit more, on a more regular basis and in a more systematic way, if we are to cope with the ever increasing demands of waging a war. Therefore, the regular collection, stock-piling and dispatching of supplies for the armed struggle should be clearly included among the tasks of Party organizations and committees, and must be encouraged among mass activists and mass organizations.

Aside from collecting from the people and confiscating from the enemy, logistics work also includes the production of supplies and equipment. For food production, militia units of the NPA cultivate plots specifically set aside for the needs of the people's army. As for weapons, comrades have started producing homemade guns that are simple but quite effective. The production of bullets, specially for shotguns, is also being developed.

The revolutionary masses and their allies, the enemy, and our own production efforts--these are the sources of the equipment and supplies we are using to further advance the revolutionary war effort.

* * *

TECHNOCRATS: 'AMERICAN BOYS' HELP MARCOS SERVE IMPERIALISM

In the past three months, Marcos' cronies have openly criticized Prime Minister Cesar Virata and other technocrats supposedly for their zeal in following every dictate set by the World Bank (WB) and International Monetary Fund (IMF).

The attack on Virata started at a caucus attended by officials of the Kilusan ng Bagong Lipunan (KBL--Movement for a New Society) last April, gained momentum in the following month and only abated a few days before Marcos announced the peso devaluation last June.

Who are the technocrats? What is their relationship to the regime, and to US imperialism?

The technocrats are bourgeois technical experts who hold top managerial positions in government. They belong to the comprador-bourgeois class because they directly serve and are loyal to US imperialism. They are well-compensated in terms of salary and position, with special privileges and benefits to boot.

Consistent with their long years of training and supervision by the US, their outlook is characterized by bourgeois idealism. They aver that the only model for development is the capitalist economy. For them, increasing production is the key to the Philippines' deep-seated economic problems. By solving this, so they say, other problems such as the widening gap between the owners of the means of production and the toiling masses will also be solved.

In the Philippines, as well as in other US semicolonies, the role of the technocrats cannot be considered apart from the scheme to maintain imperialist domination. US imperialism thinks it is essential to produce even just the outward signs of economic growth to ensure political stability, and that such a task must be entrusted to the technocrats.

The Marcos clique agrees with this. Furthermore, the international monopoly capitalists' trust in the technocrats strengthens the regime's case in begging for more loans and aid.

Technocrats, who are in charge of finance, industry and commerce, transportation and communications, energy, budget, economic planning and other fields, assure the efficient implementation of the regime's "development" program (geared for export and relying heavily on foreign monopoly capital) as prescribed by the WB-IMF.

By 1981, in the face of the people's intensifying denunciations and armed opposition, and the growing threat that the program itself would collapse, the fascist regime had decided to "lift" martial law and create a technocratic cabinet headed by Virata.

Virata's appointment did not change at all the order of things within the regime. Decision-making, including the most trivial economic decisions, remained in the hands of Marcos. What the US gained from the deal was the additional opportunities it provided to salvage and continue the program and the assurance that their loans to the regime would be repaid on time.

Disputes

Succeeding events showed that every effort to salvage the program failed, and the regime's debts piled up as uneasy WB-IMF officials exacted more onerous conditions. The regime's economic troubles weakened its political stability, and disputes surfaced within the ranks of the fascist clique.

Behind the orchestrated attacks on Virata is Marcos' resentment over the WB-IMF efforts to check the regime's spending. Marcos and his friends were jolted by WB-IMF directives to the technocrats, such as more stringent control over army corporations undergoing "rehabilitation," checking extravagance, graft and corruption, and misallocation of government funds, specially by Imelda Marcos.

However, Marcos stopped reacting after the WB-IMF showed in no uncertain terms their trust in the technocrats, and the dramatic show of support for Virata by big businessmen angered by Marcos' favoritism. By June, Marcos obediently accepted the new conditions of the WB-IMF in exchange for stand-by credit. Virata then proceeded to the IMF office in France to finalize the new loans.

As in the other conflicts among the local reactionaries, the recent events involving Virata and the technocrats do not stem from any fundamental contradiction in the protagonists' points of view. In this case, the two sides fully agree in serving US imperialism and they only differ in the amount of spoils that the ruling clique can get.

* * *

REGIME SENDS 'BAD EGGS' TO NPA GUERRILLA FRONTS

"Where do you want to be assigned--Samar, Davao or Bacolod?" asked their superior. "Bacolod as long, sir!" replied the group of "bad eggs" mostly from the Metro Manila police force. For them the Bacolod assignment seemed safe enough. But they were wrong. It was too late before they realized that anywhere they face the New People's Army, their lives are at stake.

The group belongs to the INF Field Force based in Fort Bonifacio, Metro Manila. Composed of notoriously corrupt and abusive policemen turned into special units, the group was initially designated as "secret warabals" with license to kill. Later, they were fielded in NPA guerrilla fronts to take part in the AFP's counter-insurgency drive.

Bacolod turned out to be a mere stopover. The platoon-size group was divided into two control groups and deployed to the towns of Sipalay and Candol in southern Negros under PC Task Force Kasalanan.

Last January, members of the second control group, together with other fascist troops, encountered an NPA unit. They were forced to retreat, leaving one M16 rifle behind. One man even returned to the area to surrender and hand over his M2 rifle to the NPA fighters.

In March, the second control group of 14 "secret marshals" tasted its second and last firefight in Sipalay, Negros Occidental.

A burst of gunfire woke them up from sleep. It was an NPA raid. Defending their position, the beleaguered "secret marshals" finally surrendered as their camp began to be engulfed by fire. Two of them died in the 40-minute battle, while the rest were injured. The Red fighters confiscated 12 M16 rifles.

Seizing and examining their IDs and mission orders, the NPA unit learned that they were notorious "secret marshals." The group pleaded for their lives. "All right," the Red fighters said, "Without a clear and sufficient basis to prove your crimes, we are letting you go. But let this be a warning to you. The people have had enough of your abuses." One month after their release by the NPA, it was reported that the group had deserted the IMP Field Force.

* * *

NEWS

Bicol

In three raids, an ambush and small operations, the NPA confiscated 22 M16 rifles and killed 13 PC and CHDF men in Camarines Sur and Albay last April and May.

Seven of the M16s were seized and six soldiers of the 56th Engineering Construction Battalion (PA) were killed in an ambush by the people's guerrillas in Bato, Camarines Sur, on May 11.

Last April 22, an NPA unit raided the detachment of the 61st PC Bn in barrio Socorro, Binalabao, Camarines Sur, and carried off six M16 rifles, many rounds of ammunition, and documents of the enemy. Two PC men were killed.

Earlier, Red fighters raided and destroyed the detachment station of the 253rd PC Company in barrio Cabrera, Jovellar, Albay, on April 17. Four M16 rifles were seized and five PC soldiers were killed. The raid was carried out while other members of the detachment were out dancing.

The third raid was carried out last May 19 on a detachment of the 254th PC Company in Pio Dura, Albay. Two M16 rifles were seized and a PC soldier was killed.

(Silvestre)

Cagayan

Eight highpowered firearms, including an M60 machinegun and two M203s (Armalite rifle-grenade launchers), were seized by the New People's Army in an ambush on a PC truck along the highway in Lallo, Cagayan, on May 14.

Also confiscated were five M16 rifles, a pistol, 500 rounds of M60 ammunition, and 1,000 bullets for other firearms. Eight soldiers of the 50th PC Ranger Battalion and the informers with them all died in the ambush. Among them was a lieutenant who was the executive officer of the 502nd PC Company and training officer in civil-military operations. The people's guerrillas withdrew safely.

Also in Lallo, last April 27, a PC soldier defected to the people's army, bringing with him two M16 rifles. (correspondent's reports)

Kalinga-Apayao

Three fascist officers were killed in two ambushes by the people's guerrillas in Kalinga-Apayao last May.

PC lieutenant Tagudis and Police IA, Basiliano Torres, police chief of Flora town, were killed with three PC soldiers, a policeman and a CHDF member

when the HPA ambushed the truck they were riding in barrio Lower Atok, Floria, last May 23. The people's army seized five M16 rifles and two pistols.

In Conner town, Red fighters ambushed and killed the police chief and four of his men last May 31.

(Saranghuan)

Anti-POC

A broad campaign gained initial momentum in mid-June against the Presidential Commitment Order (POC), a tool used by the regime in suppressing the people's basic democratic rights.

Spearheaded by the Movement to Abolish the POC and Restore the Writ, the campaign started off with a series of speeches held by various democratic sectors in Metro Manila. The archbishop of Manila, Cardinal Jaime Sin, and prominent movie directors Lino Brocka and Mike de Leon came out with anti-POC statements. At the conference of the Philippine PEN, an association of writers in the Philippines, the POC was likewise denounced.

A 1,000-strong anti-POC demonstration was held in Manila on June 28. The people picketed before the Supreme Court, then marched down busy Taft Avenue.

Earlier, the Supreme Court upheld Marcos' power to have anybody arrested and detained indefinitely through the issuance of the POC [AB, May 1983].

July 4

"What we have between the United States and the Philippines is not friendship. Rather, it is a relationship between an imperialist country and its colony." This was asserted by a youth representative at the picket-rally held by some 1,500 students, workers, professionals and churchpersons before the US embassy in Manila on July 4.

The demonstrators denounced the military intervention of US imperialism in the Philippines, citing the military bases and agreements as the most concrete proofs; the US stranglehold on the country's economy through imperialist firms and institutions (like the World Bank and the IMF); and its colonial control over our education and culture.

A spokesman of the Nuclear-Free Philippines Coalition said it was impossible for US military bases here not to store nuclear weapons.

The rally ended with the burning of the effigy of "Uncle Sam," symbol of US imperialism.

INTERNATIONAL

FOUR COUNTRIES CELEBRATE THEIR NATIONAL ANNIVERSARIES

Recently, the peoples of Kampuchea, Vietnam, Mozambique and Nicaragua celebrated the anniversaries of their respective victories in the struggle for national liberation. These victories provide inspiration and valuable lessons for the revolutionary people of the Philippines and other peoples still under the yoke of imperialism and colonialism.

On July 19, 1979, the people of Nicaragua triumphantly overthrew the 43-year joint yoke of US imperialism and the Somoza dynasty and established an independent and democratic society. All these four years, the Nicaraguan people have been frustrating the successive attempts of US imperialism to topple their Sandinista revolutionary government and reestablish its stranglehold in their country.

The Filipino people and other peoples waging revolution have much to learn from the experience of the Nicaraguans in overthrowing a US-backed fascist regime, in consolidating the revolution step by step while defending it against US imperialist intervention [AB, March 1983], and in forging close ties with the worldwide anti-imperialist movement.

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The Filipino people and other peoples waging revolution have much to learn from the experience of the Nicaraguans in overthrowing a US-backed fascist regime, in consolidating the revolution step by step while defending it against US imperialist intervention (AB, March 1983), and in forging close ties with the worldwide anti-imperialist movement.

Earlier, on June 25, the Mozambican people celebrated the 31st anniversary of the founding of the Front for the Liberation of Mozambique (Frelimo) and the eighth anniversary of Mozambican independence from Portuguese colonialism.

Since winning independence in 1975, the people of Mozambique (still led by Frelimo) have gained many victories in economic reconstruction, despite the acts of intervention and sabotage by the US-supported regime in South Africa.

Valuable help was extended by the Mozambican people to the similarly victorious national liberation movement in Zimbabwe, and they continue to help the liberation struggles of the Namibian and South African peoples.

Last April, the peoples of Kampuchea (April 17) and Vietnam (April 30) celebrated the eighth anniversaries of their respective victories against US-sponsored regimes.

The *NDF Update*, international publication of the National Democratic Front (NDF), recalled that these victories also constituted a victory of the world's peoples and progressive forces that mounted a powerful movement against US military aggression.

The *NDF Update* said further: "On the occasion of the eighth anniversaries of the victories of the peoples of Kampuchea and Vietnam in their struggle against US imperialism, the NDF expresses the hope that the conflicts and differences between the two countries be resolved through appropriate negotiations. Difficult as this road may be, its success will give inspiration and impetus to the anti-imperialist struggle in Southeast Asia and other parts of the world."

* * *

Anti-nuclear protests

The port city of Fremantle, in western Australia, more than doubled its population when some 10,000 demonstrators flocked there last July 2 to protest the visit of US warships.

Leading the fleet in the visit was the USS Carl Vinson, a nuclear-powered vessel which is the world's biggest aircraft carrier.

That same day, thousands of anti-missile activists marched through the streets of Woensdrecht, Netherlands, in protests against the government's agreement to the plans of US imperialism and the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) to deploy missiles in the Netherlands.

It was also reported that people in Japan and Great Britain demonstrated for nuclear disarmament and for peace.

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PAGYAGAN NG PARTIDO KOMUNISTA NG PILIPINAS
PINALATNIBAYAN NG
MARXISMO - LENINISMO - KAISEPANG MAO ZEDONG



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CONTENTS

N-D GROUPS HELP THE PARTY
IN LEADING MIDDLE FORCES p. 1

TEACHERS TRANSFORM
THEIR SOCIAL ROLE p. 3

REVOLUTION UNITES
WARING KALINGAY p. 5

SPECIAL PARTY COURSES
ENSURE RAPID DEVELOPMENT p. 7

SECURE MAINLY TO BLAME
FOR RISING CRIMINALITY p. 8

NPA SEIZED 71 RIFLES
IN NORTHEASTERN LUZON p. 10

NEWS p. 11

INTERNATIONAL p. 12

N-D GROUPS HELP THE PARTY IN LEADING MIDDLE FORCES

Five activist nurses had just held a meeting in a house near the hospital where they worked. "Let's meet more often," one of them suggested. "So many things are happening, and we cannot take the lead if we ourselves are unable to exchange information and analyze developments." At that very moment, three doctors whom they meet in the hospital everyday were in another house taking up a short course on Philippine society and revolution.

Clandestine groups like these are formed in hospitals, schools, legal associations and institutions. These are the national-democratic (N-D) collectives of professionals, intellectuals, church persons, and nationalist businessmen.

They do their revolutionary work within the sector that is economically better-off than the toiling masses but subjected like the latter to oppression and exploitation. As a sector, they are referred to as the middle forces, most of whom belong to the petty bourgeoisie.

Many of these people, especially the professionals, are natural opinion leaders and possess a big potential for revolutionary propaganda work. Many of them have special skills and links with the unorganized basic masses.

By their own sectoral activities and their support for the struggles of the toiling masses, the middle forces are very much a part of the revolutionary mass movement and contribute in no small measure to its advance. They are also targets of the regime's repression even as they serve to shield the struggles of the toiling masses from this repression.

Their work, value

The N-D groups take the lead among the middle forces to further advance the mass struggles and prepare for bigger blows of retaliation from the enemy.

Guided by the Party, they take the lead in arousing, organizing and mobilizing the different sectors of the middle forces. To secure their proper place at the head of their mass base--specific sectors within the middle forces--and to make them march in a militant movement, the N-D group members strive to excel in their occupations and in their revolutionary activities.

They make a lot of friends, join natural and formal groupings, and win the respect of the masses for their basic beliefs and their character. Sufficiently aware of the importance of being good at doing their political work, they are willing to make more sacrifices. Despite the heavy workload that they shoulder in pursuing their occupation, not to mention the time spent on taking care of other family needs, they are able to find time for the numerous political tasks they set for their groups.

Thus they take up the study of the revolutionary political line, the proper orientation of the work in their sector, and the tactics to be used. They hold running-up meetings and criticism and self-criticism sessions based on the revolutionary ethics and methods, which include the theory and practice of the mass line. They constantly update their investigations and analyses as a collective, in order to cope with the quick developments in the situation.

A single Party cadre is enough to guide an N-D group, helping it analyze and make plans that provide for a good balance between expansion and consolidation, and take charge of all other things that need to be done to fulfill their tasks.

Thus the other cadres and committees of the Party are afforded more time to tackle questions concerning long-term directions and comprehensive analysis and planning from the Marxist-Leninist viewpoint. The Party committees and units are able to give more attention to Party education work, in-depth running-ups, and the preparation and recruitment of new members.

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Meanwhile, N-D groups are tempered as they take over the important tasks of day-to-day leadership in raising the revolutionary consciousness and level of struggles of the sectors they work in. The revolutionary standpoint and scientific method of thinking of the activists forming these groups are enhanced. Many excellent Party recruits are developed.

Formation

The open mass movement provides a steady source of national democrats who can be grouped into underground collectives. The most advanced elements in a given sector come forward in the course of political struggles--those who have been mobilized in political mass actions, belong to legal organizations, have had integration with other working people, and have received legal political education.

Methods are an essential question in pinpointing the right people to be organized into N-D groups, in preparing and setting up the groups and in insuring their consistent work and development.

For us to pinpoint well the people to be developed, we should first get ourselves acquainted with many people among whom the group is to be set up, and assess the class background, personal history, and the strengths and weaknesses of each of these acquaintances. Based on this wealth of information, we can gauge which ones among those we can trust have the potential for leadership.

It is important to familiarize them with the principles and aims of the revolutionary movement and win their trust, before expecting them to make the sacrifices required for organized participation in the movement. As soon as they understand fully the basis and value of our revolutionary tasks, they volunteer for these tasks or readily undertake them.

While it is true that those belonging to the middle forces are sensitive to what they may misinterpret as manipulations or dictations on their individual decision making, they can also readily understand our explanations. Clarity, extra patience and care on our part are very important. In consolidating them, what is needed is perseverance, not impatience. On the other hand, conservatism and neglect are both wrong and harmful.

Often, preparations for the formation of an N-D group include various informal activities, like inviting them to participate in informal political discussions and short-term projects.

As they are helped to sum up their individual and collective experiences, the N-D elements get to appreciate the essential need for organized and systematic work to make their efforts contribute more significantly to the overall struggle.

If the group being formed is part of an established national-democratic mass organization, they should be recruited as new members according to the rules of the mass organization.

N-D groups set to work

After formal establishment, the N-D collective immediately undertakes to conduct initial study sessions and frame their program of action, taking into full consideration the objective conditions of their occupation (the budgeting of time, etc.). Among the first things they should study are the orientation of work in their sector and the specific characteristics and conditions of the place or institution where they work, on the basis of the results of previous social investigation.

In meetings and in actual work, we should strike the correct balance between sufficient Party guidance and giving full play to the initiative and enthusiasm of the national democrats composing the group.

Party cadres and members leading or guiding them must provide good examples in revolutionary behavior, scientific thinking, and integrating with the masses. They should show genuine concern and extend help to those who need it, even as they assert the correctness of our principles. This way, we are able to gradually intro-

duce to the activists the characteristics of the Party's correct leadership. Aside from the fact that they can immediately use the lessons drawn from our example as they take the lead in the struggles of their sector, we are also able to prepare many of them for Party membership.

In tempering the national-democratic activists, we should insure that they have enough opportunities to integrate with the basic masses and participate, directly or indirectly, in the actual struggles of the toiling masses. Eventually, they should also be able to convince others in their sector to take part in integration with the masses.

The formation and consolidation of many N-D groups among the ranks of the middle forces entails much perseverance on the part of Party cadres and members, and of the activists and other national democrats that make up these groups. Considering their contribution to the strength of the revolutionary mass movement, to Party recruitment and to the task of preparing for bigger blows of retaliation from the enemy, the effort is very much worth it.

* * *

TEACHERS TRANSFORM THEIR SOCIAL ROLE

"At the meeting of our faculty club yesterday," Remina told the student leader, "we agreed to come out with a statement on the recent devaluation of the peso." Willy replied, "Sounds good! We can print it together with our statement." The teacher readily agreed, and Willy exclaimed, "It will surely have more impact!"

The two were discussing preparations for a picket of teachers and students in front of the office of Prime Minister Cesar Virata. The picket would protest the IMF-World Bank dictation on the Philippine economy.

"I brought up the issue with my students in class this morning," Remina said. "The discussion was lively. They had many good ideas that I can include in the statement when I write it tonight."

In a way, Remina was fulfilling her responsibility as a teacher. But unlike before, her teaching work was not confined to the usual classroom instruction, and there was something new in what she was teaching.

Situation

Teachers have the important role of equipping students with skills and knowledge useful to society. At present, however, it is US imperialism and the local ruling classes that ultimately benefit from the services that teachers render to society. Through them, the educational system propagates the values, skills and attitudes necessary to preserve the semicolonial and semifeudal system of Philippine society.

But it is also the same system that subjects teachers to exploitation and oppression. Teachers receive very low salaries, suffer miserable working conditions and carry a heavy workload. Public school teachers find their income further eroded by forced contributions and they are often compelled by the government to render extra services without pay.

Politically, teachers are deprived of their rights. They do not have the freedom to seek and express the truth and freely discuss various ideas. Nor do they have the right to participate in policy-making on matters affecting their work and welfare. Worse, they are prevented from forming trade unions.

These problems, like the problems of students, can directly be traced to the imperialist and fascist control of the educational system. The US-Marcos dictatorship has worsened the commercialization of the educational system and state neglect of public education. Students and teachers are made to shoulder increasing costs.

Fascist ideology and imperialist programs for the educational system are imposed on them. Deception and force are employed to restrict and suppress their activities and protests.

Most teachers, from the elementary to the college level, in both public and private schools, belong to the lower level of the petty bourgeoisie. They have fixed low incomes. Naturally, they are usually forced to augment this income by giving private lessons, and selling insurance policies, memorial plans, and many other things. They are most desirous of change and in recent years, they have begun to resort to mass actions to press their demands for higher salaries and better working conditions. A smaller percentage who receive a bigger income and enjoy certain privileges belong to the middle and upper levels of the petty bourgeoisie.

Public opinion

The fascist regime knows only too well that teachers have long been discontented with their lot. In its effort to stop the inevitable awakening of revolutionary consciousness among the masses of teachers, the regime has been combining the use of threats with a series of empty promises and meaningless concessions.

Among the intelligentsia, students and teachers play the most decisive role in forming public opinion. Aside from having a keen political sense, which is numerous and widespread. They are concentrated in schools and at particular points in both the urban and rural areas.

While there are on the average only three teachers for every 100 students throughout the country, they are a key factor in the formation of ideas among the studentry.

In relation to the intelligentsia as a whole, their number is significant. There are about 93,000 teachers in private schools with hundreds more in state colleges and universities. But the overwhelming majority--about 350,000--are in the public elementary and high schools, most of which are in the rural areas. Teachers actually comprise the majority of the rural intelligentsia.

Propaganda movement

Teachers can use their skill and positions to propagate the truth about the nature of Philippine society and promote the ideas of the national-democratic revolution. In this way they effect a transformation of their social function: from being instruments of the dictatorship to delude the youth, they become agents of revolutionary change.

Teachers who are conscious of their newly acquired role as propagandists of the national-democratic movement take every opportunity to make propaganda, both inside and outside the classroom. In the classrooms, those teaching social sciences are in a better position to do this, but this does not mean that those teaching natural sciences and other subjects, cannot do likewise. Outside the classroom, teachers can do propaganda work among other teachers and even among parents in meetings, symposiums and other gatherings. Teachers can also reach out not only to other teachers and students but more importantly, to other sectors of society, especially workers and peasants, by integrating with them in their workplace and in rallies, mass actions and mass struggles. In this way, they learn from the workers and peasants while exercising their functions as teachers. And as a result of their integration with workers and peasants, they gain more concrete material for use in classroom teaching.

Naturally, the forms of conducting propaganda and organizing depend on the particular situation in which the teachers find themselves. That is to say, the teachers' activities in the cities might be different from those in the rural areas; primary school teachers might act differently from secondary school teachers; teachers in private schools might work differently from teachers in public schools, and so forth.

Generally, however, teachers can perform their role better if they closely link their struggles and their movement with those of the students. Teachers and students share common problems. They share the common role and task in the revolution of being propagandists for the cause of national democracy. They can strengthen their unity on joint struggles and revolutionary undertakings.

Students and teachers must frustrate any attempt to divide their ranks using deception or narrow issues. Capitalist school owners, for one, deceptively try to use the students' protests against tuition fee increases as an excuse for not raising the low salaries of teachers. Minor conflicts, such as complaints on the methods of classroom instruction may also be blown up to sow distrust and confusion among students and teachers.

To broaden further their ranks, teachers may also reach out to the other education workers and integrate them in their own struggles and movement. Librarians, guidance counselors, office employees, and janitors can also be developed as propagandists. Teachers can also forge alliances with progressive school owners and ranking education personnel who are also against the regime.

Party leadership

To be able to develop great numbers of teachers as propagandists for national democracy, the Party must strengthen its leading role in their movement.

In major urban centers, one thrust is to further develop the economic struggles of teachers and the struggle for democratic rights. The significance of this effort lies in the broadening of the teachers' movement and in tempering them in mass struggle.

While pursuing this endeavor, comrades seek to undertake political mass education at every step. This is done systematically and effectively using various forms and forums, both legal and underground. Study courses, regular newspapers, oral and printed statements and other means of propaganda are utilized in a sustained way to give political education to teachers. The direction of this political education is to involve a growing number of teachers in political mass actions and struggles of the people and to recruit and consolidate more members in underground national-democratic cells.

The Party not only engages in widespread propaganda, but also forms or exerts influence on teachers' alliances, associations and institutions. In this way, it is able to reach more teachers. This work, however, should effectively be combined with solid organizing. There should be many consolidated N-D cells and a number of well-knit teachers' organizations that serve as a backbone of the broad movement and constitute our organized mass strength.

Much has yet to be done to get the teachers movement to march in step with the student movement and, with it, develop as a full-blown political movement for national democracy. But it has begun to move forward and it has the vigor and determination to advance rapidly. In the years to come, the revolution will surely have more propagandists in tens of thousands coming from the ranks of teachers.

* * *

REVOLUTION UNITES WARING KALINGAS

Among the Kalinga tribes in Northern Luzon's Cordillera mountains, the contradictory aspects of war and peace are assuming a new meaning. The revolutionary movement is striving to end and prevent tribal wars and promote peace, a necessary condition for them to unite in carrying out armed struggle against the common enemy, the enemy no less of the whole Filipino people--the US-Marxist dictatorship.

Along with the advance of people's war, the centuries-old tradition of tribal war and peace is undergoing a transformation.

A long time ago, when land boundaries had not yet been fixed, tribes fought wars against one another to settle conflicting claims over the territories where they got their food (game animals, fruits, fish and others). In particular, tribes went to war to assert or defend their rights on territories they claimed for themselves, including farms, sources of water, and firewood.

Because of the damage on community life inflicted by war--constant strife caused people to neglect their livelihood, in the first place--the peace pact tradition or *bodong* developed. Through the *bodong*, tribal territories were clearly demarcated, and tribes agreed to live peacefully with one another.

However, under the US-Marcos regime, the biggest threat and aggression does not come from other tribes. And the regime has been attempting to use the tradition of war and *bodong* to make trouble for the Kalingas and exploit them. The reactionary state not only fails to provide guarantees on their security, livelihood, property and territory, it even inflicts damage on the Kalinga people and deprives them of their livelihood.

Armed might is the principal means used by the regime to rule over the Kalingas, especially now that more and more of them are joining the revolutionary movement against the dictatorship. Outright repression by the reactionary military is carried out together with measures to keep the Kalinga communities divided and prevent their unification. Most of the tribal wars which erupted since 1979 in Kalinga stemmed from incidents created by agents of the regime.

Thus, the regime fomenta enmity among tribes and, in general, weakens the whole Kalinga community's capacity to fight the regime. The regime also hopes to make things difficult for units of the New People's Army, by forcing them to devote a lot of time to patching up local conflicts.

Another method employed by the regime to divide the minorities is the issuance of firearms to undesirable members of some tribes, which are constituted into CDRF units or special liquidation units. The regime prods these units to retaliate against tribes which they had previously fought, or threaten or attack weaker tribes.

The reactionary military also got up special armed groups such as the Kalinga Trainees and Task Force *Kanis* consisting of recruits from different tribes. Many *bodongs* were broken and intertribal wars erupted as a result of the forays of these groups into various communities.

Resolving contradictions

It is important to preserve peace among the tribes so that they can unite and join the revolutionary struggle against the regime, and this is the policy being actively pursued by the Party and people's army in the area.

The revolutionary movement is able to act as mediator in the wars because of the respect enjoyed by the NPA and Party-led mass organizations. The high regard accorded to the movement was earned through its victories in the armed struggle, mass campaigns and other activities which promote the interests of the masses. Moreover, NPA units and mass organizations, which include Kalinga cadres, are known to be just and fair.

In resolving tribal conflicts, the movement holds that contradictions among the people are non-antagonistic, and that the basis and desire for peace are fundamental.

An outstanding example in this regard is *Naciling Dulag*, prophet or leader of the *Dutbut* tribe who led the struggle against the regime's *Chico* dam project. His son was slain and an attempt was made on his own life but he refused to take

revenge. It was more important, he said, to keep the peace and the unity of the tribes against the real enemy. Malintin Dulaq died a hero's death at the hands of the enemy in 1963.

For its part, the EPR has concluded seven wars since 1970, and negotiated four truce agreements out of eight. Naturally, the EPR does not participate in intertribal wars and does not allow itself to be used by one tribe against others.

The mass organizations, meanwhile, hold mass rallies and give political education to insure the bodong system with the correct class and revolutionary line. Progressive elements are active in the negotiations, taking the lead in proposing new mechanisms to further promote the unity of the people and prevent wasteful war. An example of this is the limitation of vendetta killings to government agents who spark intertribal war.

Aside from bilateral bodongs, the movement also promotes the holding of conferences in which representatives from many tribes work out a multilateral bodong. The first of these was the 1975 bodong against the Chico Bata project of the regime. This was followed by several other conferences with a similar spirit of unity against oppression by the regime. Representatives of tribes from neighboring Ilocos provinces even participated in these conferences. The pacts resulting from these conferences contain provisions which exclude Malintins serving in the AFP, enemy agents, and CDR members from the protection of the bodong system.

In persevering to win more victories in armed struggle and in strengthening the mass organizations, the revolutionary movement enhances its ability to rally the national minorities to Kalinga-Ilocos, and elsewhere in the Cordilleras, and foils the attempts of the regime to divide the tribes and reign supreme over them.

* * *

SPECIAL PARTY COURSES INSURE CADRE DEVELOPMENT

The Party's organizational advance is indicated by the systematic attention it now pays to the development of its cadres, not only of those engaged in all-around mass organizing, but also of those in specialized lines of work.

Special Party courses have begun to be given to cadres in military work, the workers' movement, and revolutionary journalism. Although these courses are still in the preliminary phase of implementation--and will eventually include others intended for cadres engaged in still other lines of work--the results so far have been encouraging.

Many of our veteran cadres today plunged into revolutionary work in the early years equipped only with a basic grasp of the Party's general line and, as one of them recalls, not much else but firm determination to serve the people as best they could. When they undertake the study of a special Party course, these cadres are aided in systematizing the rich knowledge they have acquired over the years of revolutionary practice. They get a deeper understanding of the principles that govern their particular line of work.

Relatively new cadres, on the other hand, gain familiarity with the general theory, principles, and methods of work of their particular lines of work. Because this knowledge is imparted to them at an earlier stage of their development, they will certainly advance much faster than if they had to go through a long process of learning by themselves.

These courses closely unite theory and practice, general knowledge and particular knowledge. On the one hand, they discuss the Marxist-Leninist principles underlying the subject of study, the overall situation and the circumstances in which present tasks are carried out, and the line, calls and tasks set forth by the Party for the particular line of work in the present stage of the revolution. On the

other hand, discussion of actual experiences gives concreteness to the principles under study. The military officers course and the journalism course include training sessions or workshops, giving the participants the opportunity to immediately apply the principles and methods they have just studied.

Not surprisingly, the study sessions are conducted in the revolutionary spirit of learning from each other--between instructors and students, and among the students themselves. Experiences that impart useful lessons are eagerly shared: successes as well as failures, amusing ones as well as sad ones. As comrades analyze advanced experiences, standards of excellence and correctness are set which most are capable of attaining in due time.

Cadres get closer guidance in attending these courses, which are an important forum for giving detailed clarifications concerning the orientation of a particular line of work and pertinent Party policies and decisions. Moreover, leading Party organs take this added opportunity to monitor developments on the lower levels of the organization.

By getting to know each other better while attending a course, cadres in the same line of work become more united, at the same time that they agree to take practical steps for mutual assistance and coordination. Besides, and more importantly, attending special study courses gives them confidence to take the initiative in their work, and to pass on their skills to other cadres and activists.

Special courses, like conferences, summing-ups, and political studies, ensure the comprehensive development of Party cadres. As more and more of them take up such studies, there is a rise in the general level of theoretical and practical competence. Advanced courses will thus be given to meet the needs on the higher level that shall have been attained.

* * *

REGIME MAINLY TO BLAME FOR RISING CRIMINALITY

Recently, Marcos once again misled the mass media. He controls for what he said was an over-exposure of crimes. Not actually, only a small fraction of the picture is reported on. Last July, the PC-IMP chief admitted that the crime rate in 1981 was 50 percent higher than that in 1971 or before martial law was imposed. And even these estimates are based on records that are far from complete.

Organized, day-to-day

In both city and countryside, killings, robbery and theft, kidnaping, rape, arson, extortion, rackets of every sort, and smuggling are day-to-day events. And with the imposition of martial rule, organized crime came to the fore, also covering big-time gambling, white slavery and drug pushing. Crime syndicates, many of which are led by military and civilian government officials and by relatives of Marcos, expanded their operations.

Only some big incidents get publicity. Examples are the bank robbery pulled by an official and seven sergeants of the PC in Manila last June, and the killing and robbery perpetrated by Manila policemen and accomplices in a bank in Mindoro last month.

What is unreported, and what the police blotters do not record, are the numerous brutal acts of repression by AFP units and troops against the masses, especially in the countryside, the daily extortion--tong collection--victimizing jeepney drivers, market vendors, and owners of stores and eateries. The same goes for big-time gambling connected with practically every spectator sport, where a number of Marcos beachmen and their crime syndicate partners always emerge the real winners. The same is true for rampant extortion and the selling of all kinds of fake products and services, from counterfeit labels on instant noodles to bogus work contracts for Saudi Arabia.

Most of the victims and witnesses do not report to the police. They have long ago learned that to do so would be pointless if not dangerous. It is public knowledge that the police and a good number of fiscals and judges serve as accomplices and protectors of crime syndicates, and they even assist on the side while conducting token investigations.

Regime is the criminal

The rise of criminality is itself a crime of the US-Marcos dictatorship against the people from whom it collects taxes supposedly for "peace and order," among other things. Actually, the joint regime of US imperialism and the Marcos clique is the biggest criminal in the country--it illegally perpetuates itself in power, and splurges on the public coffers, even as it tramples upon the people's basic rights.

Moreover, its own officials, especially those in the AFP, and the dictator's cronies are the ones who head criminal syndicates and who actually kill, rob, extort, swindle, and push antisocial vices. Of the 51 "most wanted criminals" listed by the police, 36 or almost half are military and police personnel. The PC plants marijuana in Northern Luzon and they pose as raiders on plantations to harvest and market the harmful weed.

The system of justice and punishment is kept rotten and inept. The common people almost invariably suffer injustice, and many are shoved into the quicksand of lumpen life. Anticrime campaigns are only for show, and these are used to provide cover for fascist spies, like the "secret marshals" in Manila.

The regime systematically uses the rise of criminality to sow fear and foster distrust among the people in the attempt to weaken their unity and capacity to rise up against it. In many cases, paid hoodlums are used to make trouble in pickets and other demonstrations.

Basically, the regime is responsible for the present degree of rottenness of the semicolonial and semifeudal society, including the acute poverty that breeds rampant criminality. The rotten social order also drives people to despair, making them turn to antisocial vices like gambling, drug addiction and alcoholism.

Revolutionary movement's work

While viewing criminality within the social context that spawns it, the revolutionary movement does not condone crimes. We fight criminality in two ways.

First, the broad ranks of the movement are carrying on a struggle to overthrow the reactionary government that is primarily responsible for rampant criminality and to replace the decadent society with a just and progressive society that will eventually do away with all forms of exploitation.

Second, revolutionary order with genuine, democratic and swift justice is being enforced in the guerrilla zones of the New People's Army. By setting out severe punishment, up to the death penalty, on such serious crimes as murder, cattle-rustling, and rape, the revolutionary movement has greatly reduced the incidence of these crimes in areas where the units of the people's army have started to operate. Those who commit less serious crimes receive a strong warning. In this way, we are able to neutralize and reform those who are not hardened criminals. By comprehensively developing the people's livelihood and political unity, the movement decreases or wipes out altogether the social conditions that abet the rise of criminality. As the revolutionary people assert their power and take their destiny into their own hands, despair gives way to a new sense of confidence in the future and trust in their class brothers and friends.

Rampant criminality is among the bigger social problems in the country, and it adds to the oppression of the people and worsens their poverty. Like the other broad problems of the Filipino people, the solution to this lies in the revolutionary struggle.

* * *

NPA SEIZES 71 RIFLES
IN NORTHEASTERN LUZON

Seventy-one highpowered rifles were seized by the New People's Army in 25 operations against units of the AFP Northern Command (Northcom) in Cagayan Valley from February to July. Among the arms confiscated were 57 M16 rifles, two M203s, and an M60 light machinegun.

In these attacks (12 ambushes, two raids, one sweeping operation and 10 partisan operations), the Red fighters killed 61 fascist soldiers, including five lieutenants, and wounded 19 others. Eleven were made to surrender, mostly policemen and CNIP members.

In terms of a six-month period, the number of arms seized is unsurpassed in the region's history of armed struggle. The same is true for the scope of operations-- from Gonzaga, Cagayan, in the far north, down to Solano, Nueva Vizcaya, in the south; from the foothills of the Cordillera mountains in Luna, Kalinga-Apayao, to the Pacific coast in Palanan, Isabela. Below are the details of the most significant operations.

-- Ambush on a 14-man PC-INT-CNIP force in Luna, Kalinga-Apayao, on July 17. Nine enemies were killed while two others surrendered. The Red fighters seized nine M16s, along with 50 magazines and 1,250 rounds of ammunition.

-- Disarming of three policemen aboard a jeep without a shot being fired in Palanan, Isabela, also in July. Instead of firing at them, the comrades stopped the jeep and made the enemy surrender. Three M16s and ammunition were confiscated by the NPA.

-- Ambush on five soldiers of the 50th PC Bn in Flora, Kalinga-Apayao, on June 9. The enemy was annihilated and five M16s were seized by the comrades. On May 23, an NPA unit also ambushed a jeepload of enemy troops within the same municipality. Seven fascists were killed, including a PC lieutenant and a police lieutenant. The NPA also confiscated five M16s.

-- Ambush on a truck of the 50th PC Bn in Lallo, Cagayan, on May 15. The NPA annihilated a 15-man enemy force, including a lieutenant, and confiscated five M16s, two M203s and an M60 machinegun.

-- Surprise attack on a 16-man force of the 17th IB (PA) that was posting in a barrio in Dto. Misu, Cagayan, on February 6. Six of the enemy were killed while the others scampered away. Five M16s and a Browning automatic rifle (BAR) were confiscated by the people's army.

Meanwhile, 12 more arms (11 M16s and a Carand rifle) were seized by the Red fighters and mass activists in partisan operations.

Some units also figured in five defensive firefights. Though outnumbered, they were able to seize the initiative. No less than 40 fascist troops were detested to have been killed while comrades were breaking through the enemy encirclements. In two instances, they were even able to seize two rifles from the enemy.

With the accelerated tempo of tactical offensives of the NPA in the region, tempering the units of the people's army in guerrilla warfare, the Northcom continues to reshuffle its combat formations. One reason for this is the growing hatred of the people for the fascist troops and the demoralization of the enemy, especially in those units which are sustaining more and more military defeats.

* * *

EPP on Aquino slay

The Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Philippines issued a statement on August 25 condemning the treacherous killing of former Senator Benigno Aquino Jr., leader of the legal opposition.

Aquino was shot and killed on August 21, upon his arrival in the Philippines from three years of exile in the United States. An allegedly unidentified man shot him in the head at close range, while he was being escorted by AFP soldiers to a waiting vehicle, according to the regime.

Marcos' chief political rival, Aquino was jailed in 1972 upon the imposition of martial law. In 1980, the regime allowed him to go to the US for a heart operation, fearing he would die while in its custody. Recently, in his desire to unite the anti-Marcos legal opposition, Aquino decided to return to the Philippines despite the regime's threats and warnings not to proceed.

Aquino's murder is the responsibility of the regime, whose hands are covered with blood from the massacres and murders it has committed without let-up against the people--workers, peasants, intellectuals, professionals, students, church workers, and others. In this, it has been encouraged and abetted by US imperialism's full political, military and economic support.

Governments, groups and individuals abroad also condemned the assassination. The US government, on the other hand, absolved the Marcos regime of the blame, and has reaffirmed President Ronald Reagan's plan to make a state visit here in November.

In its statement, the Party's Central Committee paid tribute to Aquino's "invaluable contributions" to the struggle against the regime, while acknowledging that there existed differences of opinion between him and the Party concerning the method of overthrowing the Marcos fascist regime.

The statement added: "His example and sacrifice leave all of us with a concrete lesson: that all forces struggling against the Marcos fascist regime must unite, persist in all forms of struggle against it, bring about its downfall at

the earliest possible time, and attain the Filipino people's national and social liberation."

Southern Luzon

New People's Army units seized 11 rifles in operations in four Southern Luzon provinces last May and June. An AFP major was killed in one of the operations.

An NPA unit raided the municipal building of Masud, Comarines Norte, last June 15, and confiscated 13 M16s, two revolvers and over 2,300 rounds of ammunition. The guerrillas successfully used a ruse upon entering and did not have to fire a single shot.

In Quezon, the chief intelligence officer of the 11st IB (PA), Maj. Reynaldo Tapia, was killed in an ambush on July 11 in Calasag town. The NPA captured an M16, ammunition and important documents.

In Gen. Luna, also in Quezon, people's guerrillas raided a detachment of the 274th PC Company on May 24. Four M16s were seized in this operation.

The NPA guerrillas seized five M16s and an M203 in an ambush in Sipocot, Comarines Sur, on May 1.

And in Castilla, Sorsogon, an ambush on June 27 added six more M16s, two General rifles and a carbine to the NPA arsenal. Eleven fascists, including six policemen, were killed.

(Siliya, correspondents)

P D A

Under intense pressure from the people, the Marcos regime announced on August 5 the abolition of the presidential commitment order (PCO) which was the target of several months of protests (AS, July 1983).

But it replaced the PCO with the same thing under another name--presidential detention act (PDA). Only Marcos has the power to determine the issuance of a PDA (like the PCO), and the courts cannot intervene.

Meanwhile, three groups of lawyers issued demands to give substance to the abolition of the PCD.

The All-Left Bar Association (Philippine chapter) and the National Bar Association demanded in a joint statement the restoration to detainees of the right to bail. For its part, the Lawyers' Campaign for Justice issued a call to grant amnesty to political detainees.

Students

More than 1,000 students from six universities and a school in Metro Manila held a rally at the Livingstone Bonifacio in Manila on August 17, to protest tuition fee increases in 160 schools and to demand a rollback.

The rallyists came from the University of the Philippines (UP), University of the East (UE), Far Eastern University (FEU), Adamson University (AU), University of Manila (UM), National University (NU), and the Philippine Maritime Institute (PMI).

Earlier, on August 10, some 100 stu-

dents gathered at the Executive House (the old Congress building), also in Manila, to denounce the regime's pro-imperialist economic policies.

Prices

The prices of goods and services were raised in the past few days, in the wake of the peso devaluation in June and the gasoline price hike that immediately followed.

Last August 8, the official price ceilings on pork, chicken, eggs, sardines and pencils were raised by an average of 9 percent.

Other increases:

— Meralco: a 4.5-centavo increase per kilowatt-hour of electricity.

— Postal services: 50-percent hike on fees for ordinary surface mail.

— PLDT: 15 percent average increase; on the cheapest phone service, the rate was hiked from P60.50 to P62.15 monthly.

— Jeepney fare: 5-centavo hike on minimum distance.

INTERNATIONAL

Central America

Eight countries recently denounced the intervention of US imperialism in Central America, particularly in El Salvador and Nicaragua.

On the 200th birth anniversary last July 28 of Venezuelan hero Simon Bolivar, the presidents of Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Panama, Peru and Venezuela demanded an end to all forms of foreign interference in the region.

Earlier, the "Contadora Group" (representing Mexico, Colombia, Venezuela and Panama) asserted that "Latin American problems must be solved by Latin Americans."

But US President Ronald Reagan ignored them, and instead ordered the holding of the biggest military training exercises in the region. This "can-beat-diplomacy" was immediately condemned by people all over the world.

On July 26, the 30th anniversary of the victory of the Cuban revolution, President Fidel Castro denounced the aggressive acts of US imperialism, and said this superpower still has time to avoid being defeated in "another Vietnam."

India

Some 101 militant workers and other people in India staged a general strike in Bihar, Orissa and Kerala last August 10 to protest the policies of the central and local governments.

They specifically denounced the economic policies of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi and her Congress Party.

Some 1,000 people were arrested in Orissa and 200 more were arrested in Kerala.

Peru

Some 500,000 people in Peru went on a general strike last July 25-26, responding to the call issued by the revolutionary organization "Shining Path."

The strike paralyzed commerce, the schools and government offices in the southeastern part of that South American country, and guerrillas blew up a radio tower in the international airport of Lima, the capital city.

Earlier, the guerrillas temporarily took over three radio stations and called on the people to join the revolution. They also put out leaflets. On the eve of the strike, the guerrillas lit torches on a hillside overlooking the city of Ayacucho. Viewed from the city, the torchlights formed the symbolic banner and sickle.

Chile

A day of national protest against the US-Pinochet regime was again ob-

served by the people of Chile on August 9. This was the fourth monthly protest since May.

The demonstrations mainly took the form of noise barrage, even as hundreds of students manned barricades.

The fascist regime mobilized 18,000 troops to quell the demonstrations. At least 24 persons were killed when the troops fired on the protesters. Over 1,000 others were arrested.

Earlier, some 700 political, labor and student activists signed a manifesto calling for an end to fascist rule.

The US-Pinochet regime has been in power for 10 years. It seized power through assassination and coup d'etat from the elected president, Salvador Allende, in 1973.

ANG

PAHAYAGAN NG PARTIDO KOMUNISTA NG PILIPINAS
PINAPATIBAYAN NG
MARXISMO - LENINISMO - KAIBPANG MAD ZEDONG



Bayan

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SEVERE POLITICAL CRISES
ROCKS U.S.-MARCOS REGIME p. 1

300,000 DEVOUCE REGIME
IN MASSIVE MANILA RALLY p. 4

REGIME'S 'RULE OF LAW'
IS RULE OF FASCIST VIOLENCE p. 5

INTENSIFIED WARFARE REQUIRES
SYSTEMATIC FINANCE WORK p. 8

CHURCH PEOPLE ALSO STRUGGLE
VS. EXPLOITATION, OPPRESSION p. 10

U.S. AGRIBUSINESS
DEVASTATES SEMICOLONIES p. 13

NEWS p. 16

INTERNATIONAL p. 17

SEVERE POLITICAL CRISIS ROCKS U.S.-MARCOS REGIME

A severe political crisis is rocking the US-Marcos fascist dictatorship in the wake of its assassination of former Senator Benigno Aquino Jr., and conditions have become extremely favorable for the rapid advance of the revolutionary struggle.

The regime considered Aquino's return a big threat and challenge to the Marcos clique's continued stay in power. But killing him was like dousing a fire with gasoline. Today, the ruling clique finds itself more isolated than ever.

The vicious crime was linked by the masses to the countless acts of violence and oppression to which they have been subjected by the fascist regime—coming on top of their long past-up resentment over their own economic woes. Although the exact relationships of these feelings and experiences were not as yet clearly established in their minds, genuine sorrow and anger at the fascist regime were in the hearts of the people who came in millions to view Aquino's body and join his funeral.

On the other hand, they saw more clearly than ever just how much the Marcos clique and US imperialism depend on each other. The United States made no bones about its fear that popular sentiment against the dictatorship could crystallize to the extent of posing a threat to imperialist domination, and most of all to the presence here of US military bases. The Reagan administration pointed out right at the start that the US attaches paramount importance to the preservation of these strategic bases. Thus, the public stand of the Reagan government went only so far as to press for a "fair investigation" into the Aquino assassination, and the US president still wants to proceed with his plan to pay a state visit to Marcos in November. Obviously, the fascist clique is still considered by the US to be the most effective watchdog of imperialist rule in the Philippines.

Among the bourgeois reformists, many more are now convinced that no peaceful way can change the Marcos clique's fascist rule, and that there is nothing to expect either from the US government. Although they are members of the ruling classes, they are readier now to side with the people's struggle.

Within the Marcos clique itself, there are those who want to bolt, as a result of the Aquino assassination, widespread popular anger at the regime, and the increasing concentration of power in the hands of some members of the clique. Eventually, certain clique leaders and personnel will certainly defect, either because they have been left out in the power play, or because they finally couldn't stomach the regime's evils any more.

Thus the US-Marcos dictatorship is faced with the urgent necessity of halting the rapid erosion of its power and authority over the country, at a time when it is clearly impossible for the bogged-down economy to soon improve.

First of all, the regime has to contain the spread and intensification of revolutionary armed struggle throughout the archipelago, as well as the growing strength of the anti-dictatorship mass movement in both the cities and the countryside.

At the same time, it must step up its exploitation and extortion, making the people pay for the ballooning costs of repression—not to mention the cost of maintaining its own extravagant lifestyle.

Then there's the increasingly important matter of working out the orderly transfer of power to those who will continue ruling for the clique. After all, Marcos is no immortal, healthy though he may be and effectively running the show for the regime.

Anti-dictatorship movement

The massive anti-government demonstrations did not stop with Aquino's burial. In the days and weeks that followed, a powerful wave of open resistance

to the puppet, cruel and corrupt regime swept over the country, most of all in Metro Manila. Rallies, marches, strike barrages, symposiums and other forms of protest were launched without let-up. Students boycotted their classes, employees picketed and distributed leaflets, even in government offices. Big businessmen joined and led several protest actions. A broad movement came forth to demand justice for Aquino and for all victims of fascist repression. And on September 21, hundreds of thousands of people from all walks of life jammed Liwanag Bonifacio, in a united and militant condemnation of the fascist dictatorship which had shut itself up in Malacañang.

In the United States, Filipinos and Americans similarly raised their voices in protest and called on Reagan to cancel plans to visit Marcos. An influential group of US political leaders insisted that it would be wrong for the US to compromise its long-term interests in the Philippines for the sake of a thoroughly discredited clique. And all over the world, people and their leaders condemned the regime for its brutal slaying of Aquino.

As the people's combative spirit rapidly rose, more bourgeois reformists tended to side with the revolutionary movement. Even before the regime killed their leader Aquino, a considerable number among them had already rejected the idea of asking for concessions from the dictatorship. They realized that no help was forthcoming from the US if they wished to restore peace and democracy in the Philippines. Since the Reagan administration itself was pressuring them to reconcile with the regime. Instead, this wing of the reformist bloc had already come to see the need to rely on the masses of the people to bring about meaningful change, and the need to use armed struggle and open mass struggles in order to achieve this.

The opposite wing of the bourgeois reformists, advocates of the capitulationist line of "critical collaboration," recoiled from the blow. In killing Aquino, the regime removed what little ground they had for hoping that there was something to be gained from such collaboration. There can be no acceptable reconciliation within the framework of the Marcos clique's continued rule. To catch up with the revolutionary tide, this wing put forward a program that takes Marcos' resignation as a starting point, and whose main content is the formation of a provisional government that would call elections within two months.

This is of course a step far removed from the former position that wanted the regime to bring about "national reconciliation and unity." However, as the opposing wing of the reformist bloc points out, the "resign, Marcos!" slogan is impossible to carry out. In fact, no sooner had the call been made than the dictator himself replied that he would never do them that favor. Moreover, and more importantly, such a slogan would lead the masses away from the correct direction that they had already taken. It would make them believe that the fascist regime is concerned for the welfare of the Philippines and the Filipino people.

No, the US-Marcos regime will never do the people that favor. It must be overthrown over and over again, booted-out, ousted from power. It will not resign; it must be overthrown.

Raging crisis

The present political crisis is among the most severe that have ever raged in the Philippines. In the last 30 years, rare have been the times when Philippine society was as sharply divided as it is today: the Marcos fascist clique and its US imperialist masters versus the broad masses of the people and part of the ruling classes.

The confrontation—a process that will go through twists and turns before the people win decisively—takes place against a backdrop of grave economic difficulties.

Hopelessly indebted, its export markets depressed, unable to afford its imports, its production slowed down to a crawl, the economy of the Philippines is slowly succumbing to the death-grip of imperialist domination. Structures are firmly kept in place to ensure that the Filipinos are extorted of their wealth, talent and

strength, and it is the people who must pay dearly as those structures remain in place. It is the people who lose their jobs and their land, who get measly wages, who pay exorbitant prices for all goods and services, who are forced to pay more and heavier taxes. Meanwhile, the Marcos clique lives in the lap of luxury.

For the economy to recover even for just a while, the dictatorship is pinning its hopes on the upturn of the world capitalist economy, particularly in the US. But even these hopes are failing to take shape, what with the inherent weakness of the semi-colonial and semi-feudal economy, and the weak recovery in the capitalist countries themselves.

As a result, there has been a resurgence of mass protests and open struggles in the last few years, centering on acute economic and political issues.

In the past several months alone, even before the killing of Aquino, issues that have come to the fore including the imposition of repressive laws [see article on p. 5], the attacks and suppression carried out against the workers' movement, progressive church people, and independent journalists, artists and other intellectuals; the increasing number of "salvagings," fascist violence in the countryside, and the demand to release all political prisoners and detainees. The people firmly opposed the renegotiated treaty on the US military bases, and the current reorientation and reorganization of the educational system. For the Reagan visit and the coming "elections," the regime itself is preparing to put down mass opposition.

Meanwhile, in the countryside, guerrilla war continues to intensify, and mass movements and struggles are gaining more and more strength among the peasants, national minorities, and other oppressed and exploited classes, strata and groups.

Overseas, the heroic struggle of the Filipino people has been winning the warm support of progressive people all over the world. The fascist puppet regime is an outcast, and if not for the patronage of US imperialism it would have lost all standing in the world community a long time ago.

Current tasks

The conditions that have been briefly described open new and better opportunities to comprehensively arouse, mobilize and organize large segments of the people who are not yet within the scope of our influence and leadership.

The open mass movement has a prominent role to play in expanding the influence and forces of the revolution at this time.

Various political and economic issues, as well as various types and forms of small-, medium- and large-scale mass actions, should be skillfully combined and coordinated. Extensive propaganda, both open and underground, must be carried out in a sustained and lively way in order to rebut enemy propaganda and frustrate enemy schemes at every turn, and to enable the people to grasp the issues and our revolutionary calls.

The militant and courageous stand and struggles of the national-democratic forces, in turn, will strengthen the resolve of the bourgeois reformists, and they will desire to develop our mutual cooperation. Militant struggle against the dictatorship will also be the main way of combatting the capitulationist and collaborationist line among them.

We must go all out to uphold the central task of overthrowing the US-Marcos fascist dictatorship and setting up a revolutionary coalition government, giving it the appropriate forms of expression in the open mass movement. This task will set the direction of open propaganda, mass campaigns and organizing, and also of united front work.

We must exert more efforts to promote the national-democratic line in a comprehensive way, especially among the worker and student masses in the urban areas. There is a need to vigorously combat underground propaganda that departs from the revolutionary line without winning any words or omitting any significant aspect; in particular, it must spread the call for armed struggle.

We must call on the broad masses to creatively and enthusiastically find ways of blocking, opposing and weakening the regime and its mechanisms and institutions. While giving free play to their initiative, we must be quick in helping them to organize themselves: study circles, groups for reproducing and distributing propaganda materials, associations of people from the same town, the same office, or the same neighborhood, and many other forms of organizations that will carry out the national-democratic line in their activities.

While boldly expanding in order to absorb the many advanced elements that are emerging from the mass struggle, we must also pay attention to the consolidation of our forces. This is true both of the open movement and the underground. Systematically developing the potential of new cadres and mass leaders is the best way to ensure that their initiative is given free rein and that they are able to perform well the many tasks that have to be done for the revolution.

A powerful impetus for the advance of the entire struggle will be generated by the tireless efforts of the national-democratic forces to win over to the revolution the masses of the people in their millions, especially in the urban areas. We will gain broader and firmer support for the armed struggle which is winning more and bigger victories in all regions of the Philippines.

Holding high the red banner of the national-democratic revolution, the people are marching with confidence toward bigger battles, advancing to overthrow the US-Marcos regime and to build the future they desire.

* * *

300,000 DENOUNCE REGIME IN MASSIVE MANILA RALLY

More than 300,000 people denounced the US-Marcos regime and called for justice, democracy and freedom in the biggest rally ever held in the Philippines. The massive demonstration was held at the Liveness Bonifacio in Manila on September 21, the 11th anniversary of the imposition of martial law.

That evening, fascist troops fired upon thousands of unarmed demonstrators who had massed near Mendiola bridge, fronting Malacañang Palace. At least 11 were killed, and scores were wounded in the hours of fighting that followed. Elsewhere in Metro Manila, people also launched spontaneous attacks against the regime.

Big demonstrations were also held in other cities such as Angeles, Baguio, Cebu and Zamboanga, and in Tarlac, Tarlac.

The Manila demonstration was organized by Justice for Aquino, Justice for All Movement (JAJA), a grouping of some 40 organizations, and the Liberal Party, Unido and PDP-Laban. Representatives of various sectors of society, leaders of opposition political parties, and the widow of former Senator Benigno Aquino Jr. (assassinated last August 21) spoke before the mammoth gathering.

Some of the other mass actions held in Metro Manila were:

-- Boycott of classes in different universities, and student protests against the commercialization of education, suppression of campus freedom, and imperialist domination and intervention. Last September 17, a rally was held at Liveness Bonifacio by around 15,000 students and teachers from 21 universities and colleges in Metro Manila. They rallied again at the same place on September 20.

-- March and rally for justice on September 16, joined by more than 10,000 office employees in Makati. This was led by the Association of Businessmen for Aquino.

-- JAJA-sponsored picket in front of the offices of newspapers controlled by the regime, the Bulletin Today, Daily Express and Times Journal, last September 16.

More than 1,000 students, churchpersons and others who joined the picket denounced the suppression of press freedom and called on journalists to oppose government dictation.

Before these mass actions, millions of people expressed their protest and indignation over the Aquino killing when they attended his wake in Manila and Central Luzon from August 29, until he was buried on August 31. No less than two million people were estimated to have turned out for the 27-kilometer march to the cemetery.

* * *

REGIME'S 'RULE OF LAW' IS RULE OF FASCIST VIOLENCE

With the recent assassination of former Senator Benigno Aquino Jr., the US-Marco fascist regime once more demonstrated that violence is its principal instrument in keeping its unjust and undemocratic rule down the throat of the entire Filipino people.

It was a brazen demonstration--a repetition, actually, of so many acts of violence daily committed by the regime all over the country--that the "rule of law" is a mere cover-up for the tyranny that maintains the US-Marco clique in power, and that even this cover-up is instantly discarded whenever there is a threat to the continuation of fascist puppet rule.

"Salvagings," disappearances, massacres, mass arrests--in addition to the repression of the people's right to speak out, to organize, to defend themselves--have marked the less than two years that have passed since "normalization." Savage irony, indeed, that the regime gunned down Aquino as he returned to lead a "struggle to restore our rights and freedoms through nonviolence," in his belief that he could thus avert the destruction of the old ruling system in the Philippines.

The most important lesson the people have drawn from the assassination, especially those who had not yet been won over to the views of the national-democrat movement, is that only armed revolution can overthrow the hated regime. Only armed revolution can rebuild a Philippines where justice and the rule of law shall be expressions of the people's independent and democratic will.

Martial law continues

Since declaring the "lifting of martial law" on January 17, 1981, the fascist Dictator has not only retained the repressive laws of the previous period, he has intensified repression against the entire Filipino people.

Several months before that fake lifting, Marcos signed the Public Order Act (Presidential Decree 1737) giving himself "emergency powers" to ensure "national security" and the "viability of the economic system," with unrestrained and absolute authority to trample on the people's democratic rights. This law also provided that he or his agents in authority would not be answerable for any acts in the exercise of such dictatorial powers.

In May 1981, Letter of Instructions 1127 instituted the Presidential Commitment Order (PCO), allowing Marcos to order the indefinite detention, without bail, of anyone he wished. This was the same unconstitutional power that the reactionary Supreme Court upheld last April 20, disregarding the militant public protests here and abroad against such gross violations of the people's right to due process.

Three months later, on July 21, Marcos pretended to abolish the PCO, by merely naming it a "preventive detention action" (PDA).

Some notable features of the "rule of law" under the US-Marco regime since 1981 have been the crushing of all public respect for the judiciary and especially the Supreme Court, with its abject submission to the regime's naked abuse of power; a Satanasang Pambansa that can only applaud dutifully while Marcos makes laws all by

himself; the existence of thousands of secret decrees and the deliberate failure to make others more fully known to the public; and the wider scope and increasing harshness of the laws concerning "national security": namely, subversion, rebellion, insurrection, sedition.

Anti-subversion laws

The regime first introduced a major change in the Anti-Subversion Law (Republic Act 1700 of 1957) with the little-known PD 885, issued by Marcos on February 3, 1976. It listed 11 acts--ranging from being mentioned in a letter, to passing out leaflets or talking with one's friends--allegedly constituting *prima facie* evidence of subversion punishable by long-term imprisonment, and even by death.

PD 885 also made it easier for the regime to get a conviction by providing that an accused person may be found guilty of subversion on the testimony of just one witness, abolishing the previous rule requiring at least two witnesses.

On June 6, 1976, a law was passed in the Batasang Pambansa (Batas Pambansa III) amending the Anti-Subversion Law to include within its scope movements demanding to secede from the present regime.

The next major change was made on September 30, 1980, with PD 1736. To the original definition of an illegal or subversive organization as "any association, organization, political party, or group of persons organized for the purpose of overthrowing the Government of the Republic of the Philippines with the open or covert assistance and support of a foreign power by force, violence, deceit or other illegal means," PD 1736 added the clause, "...or the open or covert support from a foreign source of any association, group or person...."

This law was passed at a time when bourgeois reformist groups (some of whose leaders reside in the United States) had been engaging in military operations in Metro-Manila. It also conveniently allowed Marcos to threaten all other groups and persons having links abroad (trade union federations and human rights organizations, for example) whom he suspects of being opposed to his regime.

Recently, he was forced to admit the existence of a secret law, PD 1835 dated January 16, 1981 (one day before the "lifting" of martial law). This Anti-Subversion Law of 1981 codifies and integrates the proliferation of anti-democratic laws, evidently taking the place of the National Security Code and the Public Order Act while retaining and increasing their repressive character and provisions.

In Marcos' latest machination, he names the Communist Party of the Philippines outright as the subversive organization by definition. He declares the term "CPT" to mean and include "any such organizations/associations whose purposes are allied" to it.

In addition, heavier penalties are imposed on persons convicted of belonging to such organizations. In fact, an individual doesn't even have to belong to any organization to be convicted of subversion; it is enough for the regime to say that he conspired with another for a subversive purpose.

Thus, the fascist dictator crudely lumps together all persons and groups that his regime considers its enemies, without making distinctions between the actual and necessary differences existing among them. He is correct in fearing, however, that in due time, most if not all the anti-dictatorship forces will march as one, firmly committed to the goal of overthrowing the joint rule of US imperialism and the Marcos clique.

Severe penalties

Widening the scope of the anti-subversion law means that the regime can legally use the threat of severe punishment, and impose life-imprisonment or death--to terrorize the people and force them to keep their heads bowed low.

Not content with branding almost everybody a subversive and threatening them with the harshest penalties, Marcos has even issued a secret decree also imposing

life imprisonment or death on persons found guilty of sedition, rebellion or insurrection. These need to be considered crimes lighter than subversion, since they involve acts that do not necessarily intend to overthrow the government.

"Inciting to rebellion or insurrection," or "inciting to sedition," according to the same secret decree (PD 1034, dated January 16, 1981) are also punishable by life imprisonment to death; and so with "giving aid and comfort" to those committing rebellion or sedition, allowing "his" facilities to be used for anti-government propaganda, and organizing "illegal assemblies."

Earlier, with PD 1735 (September 12, 1980), the regime had already ordered the confiscation of all property belonging to persons convicted of subversion, rebellion or insurrection, or sedition, as well as the forfeiture of their rights as Philippine citizens. This decree also made it lawful to conduct trials even in the absence of the accused.

What's more, any attempt to kill Marcos or anyone in his family is considered a crime against national security, according to PD 1743 (November 11, 1980), and carries a mandatory death penalty. To make the personal motivation seem less obvious, high military and civilian officials and their families are extended the same protection.

It is only too clear that the regime's laws are all meant to legalize the fascist dictatorship's most vicious attacks against the people, in total disregard of those basic rights and freedoms that are universally accepted by civilized nations, and which the Filipino people are courageously asserting, at the very risk of their lives.

Imperialist puppet

If Marcos takes all the trouble to give a semblance of legality to his regime's callous violation of the people's rights, it is because US imperialism prefers its puppets to look clean and proper in the eyes of the world.

And if the Marcos regime violates its own laws anyway, constantly abandoning even the semblance of legality and resorting instead to the use of open terror, it is because of the desperate realization that such is the only way now of assuring the continued rule of US imperialism, feudalism and bureaucrat capitalism in the Philippines.

The regime is robbing the people of their livelihood and denying them their rights, in order to keep the Philippines profitable and secure for international monopoly capital and the ruling clique of big comprador capitalists, big landlords and big bureaucrat capitalists. By its own acts, the regime is stripping itself bare, exposing its antinational and anti-democratic essence even to those who would rather look aside and avoid confronting the truth.

So that today, Philippine society is more sharply divided than ever, as the immense masses of the Filipino people and their allies, and a handful of foreign and local exploiters and oppressors, stand in hostile confrontation.

Today, the successes of the revolutionary armed struggle are inspiring the people to fight on and fight harder, with every means at their disposal, growing stronger and wiser as they advance against a powerful but desperate enemy. People's war--launched not only on the battlefield but also in the fields of politics, organizing, livelihood, culture, and even overseas--is the answer to the fascist dictatorial rule of US imperialism and its puppet clique.

Open legal struggles

While armed struggle is the principal means of struggle, without which there can be no hope of attaining the people's revolutionary aspirations, open legal struggles must also be developed in both the urban areas and the countryside, involving increasing numbers of organized democratic forces and reaching out to the even greater numbers of those who are still unorganized.

Arousing, mobilizing and organizing the people in the defense and pursuit of their legitimate interests and rights, these open mass struggles at the same time enable them to wage revolution in a more comprehensive way, relating specific problems to the broad issues that confront the whole of Philippine society.

In exposing and opposing the fascist puppet regime at every turn, the people force it to unmask itself: the unjustness of its laws, its servility to imperialism, its mortal fear of revolution.

At the same time, these struggles enhance people's war—they forge the people's determination and ability to advance the armed struggle by directly participating in it or giving it their full support.

The struggle on all fields against the US-Marcos fascist regime must lead to the decisive overthrow of the entire reactionary system and the final victory of the national-democratic revolution.

* * *

INTENSIFIED WARFARE REQUIRES SYSTEMATIC FINANCE WORK

"Here's our report," said the finance officer of a section committee in Central Luzon, "and here's the total amount we collected. That includes dues and contributions from Party members."

The finance officer of the district committee looked over the report and remarked, "It seems you collected more grain during the last harvest, no?"

"That's because of the campaign to lower the land rent. We were able to collect taxes from the increased income of the peasants, who were so happy about it that they gave more as contribution. So we were able to take in nearly 600 cavans of palay, including the tax on threshers."

The collection of funds and logistics, and the submission of regular reports, are tasks being carried out by the Party organizations in their effort to be more thoroughgoing in finance work. With the intensification of people's war, the demands of the revolution for more funds and logistics increase, at the same time that the sources of financing for the Party and people's army widen. In this situation, there is a need to try harder in systematically generating funds and logistics for the immediate needs of the revolution, as well as for reserve funds to be used for emergency purposes and future contingencies.

Generating funds

In finance work, as in other revolutionary work, we adhere to the principle of reliance and trust in the masses, mainly in the basic masses, as an inexhaustible wellspring of initiative, power and support for the revolution. The resources of the Party, people's army and mass organizations should come from the efforts of the revolutionary forces themselves.

There are various means of raising funds, and we strive to get the most out of various sources so that almost all that the Filipino people are willing and able to contribute may be collected and used for the financial and logistical needs of the revolution.

The most basic source of our funds is derived from dues and contributions of Party members. The payment of dues is a duty that should be complied with by each one promptly and regularly. Aside from dues, Party members also give contributions in accordance with their means and the support they get from their family and others.

Mass organizations are an important source of financial and logistical support. They give fixed regular contributions to the Party and people's army from their

own funds, which are also used to pay for the expenses of their activities, campaigns, mass mobilizations, members' emergency needs, support for the families of fulltime activists, Red fighters and cadres, and others.

Party-led open and underground mass organizations raise funds principally through the collection of membership dues and additional contributions. Various ways are found to increase these funds. Rural youth commonly donate their wages for one to three days of planting or harvesting. Members of the rural women's association cultivate mango on a piece of land borrowed from a rich peasant, and turn over the proceeds to their organization. Many peasants give one-half to one cavan of yalag each after the harvest, as an added contribution to their association. Part of the income from cooperatives also goes to the associations. The same is true when members undertake concealment of part of the harvest, or when landlord property is confiscated, and various fund-raising projects are carried out.

Organized and influenced peasants and farm workers in the guerrilla fronts also make voluntary contributions. For instance, there are those who put aside a cup of rice weekly, and there are those who give a bag of sugar, a bottle of coffee, some dried fish or soap every month, according to what they can afford. These items are sent to a unit of the people's army, or stored in a safe place until needed.

Similarly, urban mass organizations are mainly funded by membership dues and contributions from workers, students and other sectors, and by income-generating projects.

Among other things, mass organizations need to provide for the printing of revolutionary publications. The expenses for paper and ink may come from subscriptions to revolutionary mass newspapers or other readings. Newspapers commonly cost one peso per copy, and magazine-type publications cost two to three pesos per copy. Subscriptions are made on an individual basis, or paid from the funds of the mass organizations.

Fund drives

The revolutionary movement gets a considerable part of its finances and logistics from its military and political actions. These include the confiscation of arms and equipment following tactical offensives of the people's army, confiscation of the property of class enemies specially those who actively oppose the revolution, and taxes as a definite percentage of the income from businesses owned by class enemies.

Meanwhile, as a result of the successes in agrarian revolution, the movement gets a share of the peasants' material gains--from concealing part of the harvest, lowering of land rent, nonpayment of land rent, and increases in farm wages [AD, May 1963].

Also, tactical fund campaigns are launched in connection with political campaigns or mass mobilizations. These fund drives are planned as part of the overall mobilization effort. This enables us to make sure that funds are ready even before the political campaign goes full blast, allowing the leading committees to give all their attention to the main mobilization.

Special fund drives are also undertaken to provide for medical needs, hold study courses, purchase weapons, stage a strike, hold conferences, print reading materials, assist calamity victims, etc. Special fund drives such as these are readily linked to politics, neatly planned and implemented, and require only a small number of people to set into motion.

For example, a campaign was launched to buy medicines for a front guerrilla unit, in one relatively better-off barrio in Mindanao, with more than a hundred families. The barriofolk agreed to do so, and nearly all the families were able to give contributions according to their respective capabilities. In a short time, the army unit was able to collect P3,000 with which to buy the specified types and amount of medicines which it needed.

As the armed struggle and the revolutionary mass movement continue to reap victories, and as more and more people actively oppose the US-Marcos regime, support increases from the ranks of the middle forces. Donations come from rich peasants, teachers, employed, merchants, small businessmen and others. In the cities, there are the professionals, and nationalist businessmen and managers of enterprises.

In soliciting donations from the middle forces, we try to get fixed regular contributions on the basis of our political unity with them and their income levels. Their generosity increases as their political consciousness is further raised, by getting them to join the appropriate national-democratic cells [AP, August 1963] or other organizations, or even by just having regular talks with them and giving them revolutionary publications to read.

At certain times, bourgeois reformists can also give valuable help.

Simple living

Wherever we are and at all times, we uphold the spirit of simple living and arduous struggle. In finance work, this is reflected in rational and systematic budgeting, thrift, and caring for the property of the Party, people's army and the revolutionary movement.

Thrift is practiced taking into consideration the approved budget for expenses which are based on political programs and plans, the priorities that have been drawn up, and the standard of living of the masses in the area or sector. We make sure of meeting expenses for education and propaganda, the training and care of fulltime cadres and Red fighters, improving the weapons of the people's army, expanding and strengthening the revolutionary mass movement, communications, and medical needs.

Red fighters are models of thrift and of generating mass support for the revolution. For instance, Red fighters of some NPA units in Western Mindanao receive the equivalent of only five pesos each for their monthly allowance. Most of their needs are willingly provided by the masses in the guerrilla front.

Simple living, thrift and the endeavor to overcome difficulties and obstacles are everyday struggles. They express the proletarian spirit. In these ways, we also show that we value the help extended to us by the masses and the rest of the people, which is an aspect of their opposition to the US-Marcos dictatorship.

Finance work, like the work in the military, political, organizational and cultural fields, is a part of people's war. The victories in the advancement of the revolution are also reflected in the successes in finance work. And as finance work progresses, the revolutionary movement acquires a greater capability to obtain more victories in all fields of people's war.

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CHURCH PEOPLE ALSO STRUGGLE VS. EXPLOITATION, OPPRESSION

Ma Alma speaks calmly, but firm conviction manifests itself in her words. "Loving the least of our brethren and serving them--this is revolution, for me. By doing revolutionary work, I bring to life the teachings of religion."

To other people, Ma Alma is a nun called Sister Agnes. She is a revolutionary activist who maintains that the religious can make a vital contribution to the development and victory of the national-democratic revolution in the Philippines, where 95 percent of the people are counted as Christians. There are many church persons like her who are wholeheartedly and enthusiastically taking an active part in revolutionary struggle. They have realized the justness of the people's armed struggle, and recall with amazement the time when they were being taught that Communists are the enemy and revolutions are "the work of the devil."

Political unity

The reactionary governments that have ruled the Philippines from the 1500s have always enjoyed the support of the main religious organizations and leaders, especially the Christians. In fact, Spanish colonialism used Christianity as one of its principal means of lording it over the country for more than 300 years. The Catholic church itself, and many of its leaders and clerics, belonged to the ruling classes and directly exploited and oppressed the masses.

On the other hand, the Filipino people's long history of struggle, including the unfinished revolution of 1896, counts with the participation, and, in some cases, the leadership of individual religious leaders, both Christian and non-Christian. The masses rose up and fought even as they held different religious beliefs in varying degrees. Some practiced animism, or worshipped *Diya* (like the *Watawat ng lahi*); others insisted on the nationalist application of Christianity (*Com-Bur-Sa* or *Aglipay*); and still others resisted the inroads of Christian domination (like the *Moro*).

There is a strong basis today for a growing number of religious persons to rally to the revolution. The majority of these referred to as church persons belong to the middle and lower strata of society and are thus among the objective forces of the people's democratic revolution.

As the masses of church people are integrating with the broad masses, especially the toiling masses, to give substance to their own work. As they go among the masses, they witness the exploitation and oppression caused by the US-Marcos dictatorship, and confront the need to struggle with the masses for their political and economic rights. Some like *Ka Alma*, along with many pastors, priests and other church persons, have made a long way from spending the whole day in prayer and meditation in churches, convents or seminaries, detached from the people's daily lives.

In varying degrees, more and more churchpersons are siding with the people's struggles and some are going to the extent of supporting and joining the revolution. Some initiate or readily join open actions, fully aware that these activities contribute to the revolutionary mass movement and the people's war as a whole. Still others are joining the revolutionary sectoral mass organization, the Christians for National Liberation or CNL, and are active in its underground groups. A good number have become cadres and members of the Party and guerrillas of the New People's Army.

As the reactionary state exposes its real nature, church persons are left with only two options--to support the people's armed revolution against the ruling system represented by the US-Marcos dictatorship, or to join the dictatorship against the masses. Illusions of a meaningful third alternative--that of neutrality--are fast disappearing, and being a "critical collaborator" of the regime is recognized as collaboration just the same.

The overwhelming majority of church persons consider taking the side of the criminal US-Marcos regime as an unconscionable act. Thus, despite the enemy's black propaganda saying religion would be suppressed once the Communist Party-led revolution emerges victorious, they choose to side with this revolution of the people against exploitation and oppression.

Guaranteed right

The program of the people's democratic revolution guarantees the right of the people to choose their beliefs--the right to freely choose their outlook on nature and society, and the right to decide as individuals whether or not to adhere to a religion.

Communists, who comprise the Marxist-Leninist Party that leads the revolution and who lead in making this guarantee, adhere to, and propagate, the proletarian ideology which is founded on dialectical materialism and promotes atheism. Communists do not believe in religion, which is a product of national and social oppression and arises from man's lack of understanding of the objective laws governing nature and society.

Dialectical materialism holds that there is no such thing as a permanent and absolute power standing above nature and deciding the individual fate of every person and thing. Over the centuries, the exploiting classes promoted and imposed the belief in the "infinite existence and goodness" of such a power, in order to justify their own rule. They used religion to numb the pain of the oppression they caused the masses to suffer, and to prevent the masses from trying to win salvation by their own actions.

Instead, there are universal laws--that things are constantly coming forth and withering away in nature and society, that every single thing is ever changing due to internal contradictions, and that each thing is also affected by all other things around it. These laws operate independently of the thinking and wishes of anyone.

As of now, only a minority in society has turned away from religion. The Communists and the revolutionary workers thus differ in belief from many other people who have not studied dialectical materialism and do not subscribe to it. But the Party views this conflict within the context of the broad unity of the people fighting exploitation and oppression, and handles it as a non-antagonistic contradiction. The people's energies should be devoted to the revolutionary struggle, and not be diverted to endless debates on religion that can only be used by the exploiters to mislead them.

The Party relies on patient explanations and persuasion, not on coercion and prohibitions, in handling such struggles of ideas. The underground group to which La Alca belongs conducts discussions on dialectical materialism, guided by a Party cadre. The group members ask a lot of questions in the sincere effort to discover the logic and essence of the lessons under study. And they never hear the Party cadre say anything similar to the answer they used to get when they were still pursuing studies at the convent--"Just have faith! There are mysteries which are beyond the capacity of mere mortals like us to understand."

The people's right to hold differing views on religion are guaranteed, but counter-revolutionary actions are another thing altogether. The government to be set up by the people shall suppress acts that harm the people's interests, even if attempts are made to use religion to justify such acts. The gains of the revolution shall be defended against attempts to bring back the rule of the exploiters and oppressors.

Frustrating the dictatorship

The US-Marco dictatorship tries hard to use the question of religion to drive a wedge of disunity among the people and defeat their revolutionary struggle. It is implementing the lessons of the CIA-inspired "Banner Plan" employed in Latin America [AP, January 1963], which instructs that attacks be concentrated on militant church persons as individuals and on foreign clerics alleged to be linked with international communism.

The dictatorship has been trying to win over the leadership of the big religious institutions, and it has secured the support of the leaders of a native sect who absolutely dictate the political stance of all the members. It has been making attempts to win all the Catholic bishops to its side by inviting them to join its "XXX" program. Recently, it reprimanded the military officers who figured in the raid on the bishop's palace in Isabela.

These steps of the regime are, however, meeting with failure. The religious institutions and their personnel and even their leaders have not stopped the activities that forge closer links between them and the masses, and they support the latter's struggles. CNL chapters, cells and members are fast increasing. And the people's democratic revolution led by the Communist Party of the Philippines is marching steadily on in a country that has long been considered the bastion of Christianity in Asia.

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Dialectical materialism holds that there is no such thing as a permanent and absolute power standing above nature and deciding the individual fate of every person and thing. Over the centuries, the exploiting classes promoted and imposed the belief in the "infinite existence and goodness" of such a power, in order to justify their own rule. They used religion to numb the pain of the oppression they caused the masses to suffer, and to prevent the masses from trying to win salvation by their own actions.

Instead, there are universal laws--that things are constantly coming forth and withering away in nature and society, that every single thing is ever changing due to internal contradictions, and that each thing is also affected by all other things around it. These laws operate independently of the thinking and wishes of anyone.

As of now, only a minority in society has turned away from religion. The Communists and the revolutionary workers thus differ in belief from many other people who have not studied dialectical materialism and do not subscribe to it. But the Party views this conflict within the context of the broad unity of the people fighting exploitation and oppression, and handles it as a non-antagonistic contradiction. The people's energies should be devoted to the revolutionary struggle, and not be diverted to endless debates on religion that can only be used by the exploiters to divide them.

The Party relies on patient explanations and persuasion, not on coercion and prohibitions, in handling such struggles of ideas. The underground group to which I also belong conducts discussions on dialectical materialism, guided by a Party cadre. The group members ask a lot of questions in the sincere effort to discover the logic and essence of the lessons under study. And they never hear the Party cadre say anything similar to the answer they used to get when they were still pursuing studies at the convent--"Just have faith! There are mysteries which are beyond the capacity of mere mortals like us to understand."

The people's right to hold differing views on religion are guaranteed, but counter-revolutionary actions are another thing altogether. The government to be set up by the people shall suppress acts that harm the people's interests, even if attempts are made to use religion to justify such acts. The gains of the revolution shall be defended against attempts to bring back the rule of the exploiters and oppressors.

Frustrating the dictatorship

The Marcos dictatorship tries hard to use the question of religion to drive a wedge of disunity among the people and defeat their revolutionary struggle. It is implementing the lessons of the CIA-inspired "Denzer Plan" employed in Latin America [AS, January 1963], which instructs that attacks be concentrated on militant church persons as individuals and on foreign clerics alleged to be linked with international communism.

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U.S. AGRIBUSINESS
DEVASTATES SEMICOLONIES

In 1981-82, the United States exported \$44,000 million worth of farm products to various countries of the world. The bulk of these was produced by the ten largest US agro-corporations including Cargill, General Foods, and Castle & Cooke.

This is only one manifestation of US monopoly capital's further inroads and control over the agriculture of semicolonies in Asia, Africa and Latin America. Due to the much lower costs of production in these countries, and the enormous profits from the sale of the products to capitalist countries, these imperialist interests are growing fast. Exercising control over the production and distribution of farm products, they are able to manipulate, to their advantage, the worldwide supply and demand of food products.

A typical example of US monopoly in agribusiness is Cargill, the world's biggest grain trader.

Cargill's interconnected operations cover the US, Canada and 36 other countries. Every year, 40 million tons of wheat, corn and soybeans are bought, dried and processed by Cargill's several hundred processing plants and delivered worldwide by its own fleet of freight railcars, trucks and ocean-going vessels. Cargill also operates animal feed manufacturing plants in 21 countries and manages vast plantations, ranches, a deepsea fishing fleet and saltlakes. It also has a monopoly of the sale of new high-yielding wheat and soybean seeds.

LEADING U.S. AGRO-CORPORATIONS

AGRO-CORPORATION	Product(s)	1981 Sales (in million pesos*)	Subsidiaries/activities in the Philippines
CARGILL	Grains (wheat, corn, soybeans)	306,000	Supplying wheat, corn
KUHNLE INDUSTRIES	Tobacco, fresh & canned fruits	126,612	Phil. Packing (Del Monte); supplying tobacco leaf, licensing for cigarette manufacture
KRAFTCO	Cattle, milk, cheese	117,521	Kraftfoods (Phila.)
GOODYEAR TIRE & RUBBER	Rubber	100,738	Goodyear (Phila.), rubber plantation, rubber products
GENERAL FOODS	Coffee, coconut products, cooking oil	67,395	General Foods (Phila.) and Franklin Deter Co.
MELDAPCO	Seeds, pesticides	76,450	Manufacturing pesticides, selling chemicals
UNITED BRANDS (United Fruit)	55% of world's banana; fruits, vegetables	45,637	Tugas Development Corp. (Davao)
CARNATION CO.	Milk, ice cream, cheese	36,054	Oronation (Phila.)
CASTLE & COOKE	Fresh and canned	15,899	Dole (Phila.) and standard Phil., pineapple, banana, melon
AMERICAN TOWER	Sugar	10,953	held on American Sugar Co.; have half of our sugar exports

(*73-80/79; 81-82)

Behind Cargill and US agribusiness stand the powerful US government, the World Bank and other international financial and research institutions. Even the US puppet regimes in the semicolonies serve as their willing tools and accomplices.

Investments

For the past 15 years, US agribusiness has been aggressively penetrating the backward agriculture of the semicolonies. Low farm wages mean big profits, and they enjoy special privileges. Meanwhile, the demand for food and raw materials continues to grow in the capitalist countries, and semicolonies themselves are buying more food, farm inputs and equipment.

The privileges extended to these agro-corporations by the puppet regimes include the unregulated repatriation of profits, tax exemptions, subsidies in the form of government grants and exemptions from import levies, guaranteed security of their operations, and the right to control big parcels of prime agricultural land, virtually for a song. Local competition eventually folds up with the entry of US agribusiness in the semicolonies. Their monopoly over the semicolonies' agricultural exports is assured, while the host countries remain a captive market for their finished products.

No other US puppet regimes today can match the military rulers in Brazil and the fascist Marcos clique in their subservience to the interests of US agribusiness.

In Brazil, using the pretext of "developing" the Amazon region, the fascist military regime granted--almost for free--thousands of hectares of land to Swift & Armour, Goodyear and other US corporations interested in establishing plantations and ranches. For setting up processing plants (which the agro-corporations intended to do all along), further tax cuts were extended. Before this, the military regime borrowed heavily from foreign banks to finance the infrastructure demanded by monopoly capital. This is one reason why, at present, Brazil's foreign debt is the world's biggest.

In the Philippines, the "development" program dictated by the World Bank and pursued by the Marcos regime (geared to exporting farm products and other raw or processed products and relying mainly on monopoly capital), was used as a springboard by US agribusiness to expand and consolidate their operations here and in nearby countries.

Take for example Castle & Cooke (with 30 subsidiaries in Asia and Latin America) and Del Monte (now a subsidiary of Reynolds Industries with a worldwide network of 16 plantations, 12 tin can manufacturing plants, 72 canning and processing plants, and seven research laboratories). In the Philippines, these two giants used to produce and export mainly pineapple products. Now they have gone into the production of bananas, coffee and rice, as well as beef. Early this year, Castle & Cooke transferred its center of operations to the Philippines to closely oversee its expansion drive in Southeast Asia and consolidate its hold on the Japanese and Middle East fruit markets.

Adverse effects

In the agriculture-based economy of the semicolonies, the expansion and control of US agribusiness mean greater profits for the imperialists at the expense of the people and the economy of these countries.

Priorities in agriculture are distorted. Sizeable areas of agricultural lands, big amounts of funds and labor power are used up in producing products which are not geared to local requirements--food for the people and raw materials for industry.

Nowadays, semicolonies experience food shortages where they used to be self-sufficient, while local industries are deprived of the raw materials they need. This is what happened in the African states of Kenya, Uganda and Zaire, which in the past sometimes even managed to export surplus grain. Although Thailand and Sri Lanka have yet to experience serious food problems they are forced to import increasing quantities of wheat, milk, meat and canned foods, year after year.

Furthermore, the growth of local capital in agriculture is stunted. Thus, at excessively high cost, the semicolonies have to buy complete processing plants, and the bulk if not all of the vital raw materials they require, even including the chemical formula for making pesticide.

Exploitation, repression

In areas in the countryside penetrated by US agribusiness, certain changes are taking place which affect the position of various classes, accompanied by a more intense exploitation of the peasant and farm worker masses. Such changes are being induced by US agribusiness' introduction of contract farming (growers contract, farm management contract, and management-marketing contract), and the consequent growth of wage relations in agriculture.

In some areas in the Philippines, the contractual system has reduced former independent peasants to the status of tenants. Under a very onerous growers contract, the peasant's share does not exceed 20 percent of the crop, and the rest goes to the company. Although he shoulders all the production expenses, it is the company that prescribes inputs and sets quality standards as well as the price of their produce. As the peasants' livelihood deteriorates, they also lose control over the land.

The contractual system also transforms former tenants into wage laborers in the plantations and processing plants. Here they are tied by monopoly capital and its local associates to a system of quotas where as much surplus value as possible is squeezed out of the farm workers.

Meanwhile, the same system props up the economic power of the landlords and the comprador capitalists. US agro-corporations do not only spend a lot to improve their lands for them. They also pay rent to the parasitic landlord (in 1976, this amounted to P300-P500 per hectare for one year, in Mindanao). Likewise, the comprador capitalists enjoy some of the privileges granted by the regime to the imperialists, including the right to control hundreds of hectares of land and tax exemptions.

As a matter of course, the expansion of US agribusiness in the semicolonies intensifies landgrabbing, specially of the land belonging to minority peoples. In many instances, this involves the participation of government agencies and the reactionary armed forces. But for the whole people, the most serious implication is the intensification of counter-revolutionary campaigns launched by the puppet regime to protect the interests of monopoly capital and the local ruling classes.

In this connection, agribusiness is no different from other lines and types of businesses controlled by monopoly capital. They are all unscrupulous in their methods—including the overthrow of democratic governments and direct violence inflicted on the people in protecting and pursuing their interests.

One notable case was the overthrow of the Jacobo Arbenz government in Guatemala in 1954, in a fascist military coup d'état instigated and supported by the US. This was shortly after Arbenz confiscated all the properties of United Fruit (United Brands now) and instituted land reform.

Under the US-Marcos regime, the interests of US agribusiness in the Philippines have multiplied and grown. They control modern agricultural technologies, they manipulate the world markets, and their investments penetrate vast areas. In waging a struggle against US imperialists and the Marcos clique, the Filipino peasantry becomes a part of the struggle of the peoples of Asia, Africa and Latin America against domination by imperialism and the local ruling classes.

* * *

Bicol

In two raids by the New People's Army in Bicol, the Red Fighters seized nine rifles and killed six PC soldiers.

Last July 25, the people's army raided a detachment of the 13th PC in La Cobo, Zamboanga, Comarinas Div. They confiscated four rifles and an M203 and killed six PC soldiers.

On August 22, a partisan unit confiscated two PCs and two military M2 rifles from the house of the barrio captain of Insuran in Linao, Albay. The barrio captain, a retired lieutenant colonel, was out at home when the raid was carried out.

Meanwhile, the NPA finished Jesus Obiasca last August 11, one day after he was cited by the regime as the "Most Outstanding DCMF of the Year" in Bicol. The sentence against Obiasca, a notorious fascist agent, was carried out in Salolo, Sinitotan, Albay.

(Sijaya)

Damar

Five PCs were seized by NPA guerrillas who ambushed a platoon-strength PC patrol on August 27 in Lorente, Eastern Samar. The comrades waited until most of the patrol had crossed the river, then ambushed the five soldiers who had not yet crossed.

On August 29, the NPA raided the office, depot and cannal of San Jose Timber, the biggest logging company in the island. Property worth P26 million was burned and destroyed. The company is owned by Defense Minister Juan Ponce Enrile and was used by the 15th IB (PA) and the PC "East Command" as a base from which to launch attacks on the people around the concession. In 1961, the NPA had already destroyed company property worth P10 million.

(correspondence)

Language

Some 3,000 students and teachers from various schools staged a rally in Ligtang Bonifacio last August 19 to assail the emphasis on English as language of

instruction and oppose tuition fee hikes.

The scheme to use English as a language of instruction, even in grade school, was dictated by the World Bank on the Marcos regime.

Meanwhile, although tuition fees in schools keep rising, the salaries of teachers remain low and facilities in schools continue to deteriorate. The rallyists denounced this trend, especially since the pretext used for raising tuition fees is the raising of teachers' salaries and improvement in school facilities.

Whitewash Body

Work of the commission investigating the slaying of Aquino was temporarily suspended following the filing before the Supreme Court of protests of three lawyers' groups against the composition of the commission.

The commission, which was created by Marcos to declare the regime innocent in the assassination, is headed by Enrique Fernando, chief justice of the Supreme Court when Marcos reappointed last year. The other members of the commission are former Supreme Court justices who remain loyal to Marcos.

Other groups and individuals have also questioned the composition of the commission, and students even staged a picket before Fernando's residence.

Before its work was suspended, the commission started its investigation by looking over the site in the Manila International Airport where Aquino was killed. It did not even place among those to be investigated first the soldiers who were supposed to have provided "security" for Aquino. It is no wonder then that many are convinced that nothing will come out of its investigation but the washing of the regime's hands.

Demolition

Hundreds of families were rendered homeless when the government demolished their houses in Barangay Marikina, Quezon City and in Isla Ilog Bato, Tondo, Manila, last September 12-13, after the

leantly suppressing the people's militant resistance.

The residents put up barricades and fought the assaulting policemen and demolition teams with stones, bottles and molotov bombs. Many were injured, and some people were hit when police opened fire.

Tens of thousands of houses of the poor in Metro Manila are scheduled for demolition. In August, however, the Coalition Against Demolition successfully resisted government efforts to drive away the people living in Pook Dagonoy, Picarte and Palaris in Quezon City.

Excuse

Defense minister Juan Ponce Enrile justified the raids conducted on the bishop's residence and a nearby convent in Iligan, Isabela, on August 23 and 24.

The raids were conducted on the allegation that six "rebel priests," including Conrado Balweg, were hiding in the bishop's residence, and that an armed woman, who had subversive documents with her, was allegedly in the convent. The military searched the two places to no avail.

The bishop protested that he was not informed of the raid beforehand, in violation of the policy agreed upon by church officials and the government. What's more, the search warrants used were unnumbered and did not bear the seal of the court which issued them.

In reply, Enrile said that "it is better to make a mistake than not to act at all." As a consolation, Brig. Gen. Thomas Manlongat, Cagayan Valley PC commander, was reprimanded by Brig. Gen. Alexander Felis, Northcom commander.

INTERNATIONAL

Chile

Hundreds of thousands of Chileans joined the national protest against the US-Pinochet regime last September 2. Five persons were killed, 91 were wounded and about 1,200 were arrested when fascist troops suppressed the protest. This was the fifth of the scorching protests which began in May.

Notwithstanding the violent suppression of the protests, the people continued to denounce the regime in successive mass actions. September 11 was the 10th anniversary of Pinochet's seizure of power, with US help, from the democratically-elected government of Salvador Allende. On this day, two more persons died, bringing the number of deaths among protesters to ten.

After 10 years of US-Pinochet regime's military rule, Chile is going through its worst economic crisis in 50 years.

Pakistan

No less than 15 persons died and

many more were injured when policemen fired upon a militant demonstration in Sindh, Pakistan, last September 13. It was the 30th day of massive protest by Pakistanis against the fascist military regime of Zia ul-Haq. Before this, the government admitted that 33 had died and 1,250 had been arrested in the first two weeks of protests, although oppositionists estimate that 60 had died and more than 9,000 were imprisoned in the same period.

The continuous protest movement is led by the Movement for the Restoration of Democracy, which includes eight opposition parties. The movement, which is centered in Sindh, began on August 14, the anniversary of independence of Pakistan from Great Britain.

Zia ul-Haq, the main target of protests, seized power in 1977 from the civilian government headed by Zulfikar Ali Bhutto and established military rule over the whole nation. After one year, Zia ul-Haq declared himself president.