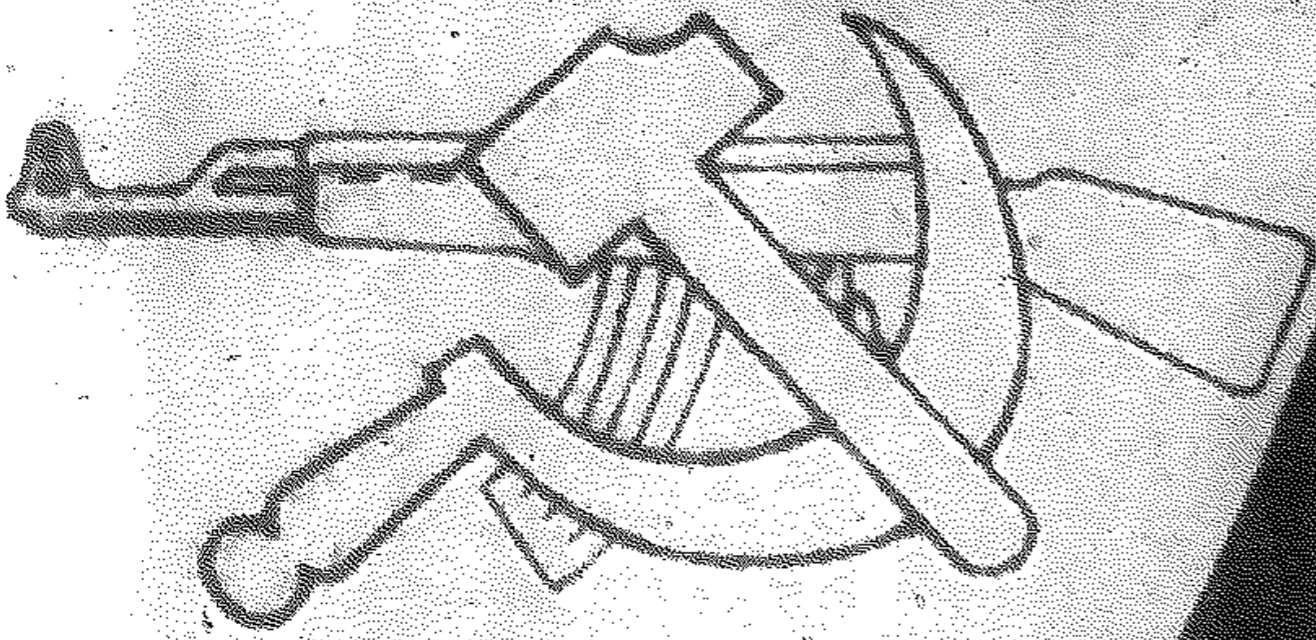


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PAHAYAGAN NG PARTIDO KOMUNISTA NG PILIPINAS  
PINAPATIBAYAN NG  
MARXISMO - LENINISMO - KAISIPANG MAO ZEDONG



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## THE SINKING OF THE RP ECONOMY

Like a broken record, Marcos and his cohorts announce at every turn of the year that the economy will fare better. But what turns out is just the opposite, as shown by last year's performance.

Many mining operations ground to a halt, fishing vessels remained moored, warehouses remained shut, no smoke was rising over copra sheds...The signs of a worsened economic crisis are apparent everywhere.

The steady fall of the economy in 1982 is dramatically reflected in the rapid deterioration of the balance of payments deficit, which surpassed one billion dollars or more than nine billion pesos. This deficit is unprecedented since the end of World War II, and is more than double that of 1981.

The balance of payments (BOP) indicates the positive or negative difference in the amount of dollars (and other foreign exchange) which enter and leave the country. A major portion of this consists of payments for exported and imported goods and services. Thus, the balance of exports against imports is also reflected in the BOP.

The balance of payments also includes capital outflow and inflow, profit repatriations, debt payments, and expenses of tourists (both incoming foreigners and outgoing residents of the Philippines).

Excessive BOP deficits would mean the imposition by foreign institutions and enterprises of more onerous conditions on a country seeking new loans and imports.

The balance of payments, therefore, can be regarded as a measure of a country's economic health.

The ballooning of the balance of payments in 1982 was due mainly to the fact that more foreign exchange was paid for imports than was earned from exports. This pattern has persisted for a long time, on account of our semicolonial economy. As much as possible, the imperialists keep down the prices for the products we export while fixing high prices for the products we import from them.

Now that the world capitalist system is bogged down in crisis, the imperialists pass on their difficulties to semicolonial countries like the Philippines. They buy fewer goods from the semicolonies, and at low prices at that, while forcing their products upon them at higher prices.

Compared to 1981, payments for 1982 exports (\$5.0 billion or ₱46 billion) were lower by 12.7 percent while payments for imports (\$7.8 billion or ₱71.8 billion) went down by only 1.8 percent.

The BOP deficit would have been bigger had it not been for the dollar remittances of Filipino workers from abroad. By the end of 1982, they had remitted \$700 million (₱6.4 billion) to the Philippines. This amount is almost thrice the total foreign investments brought into the Philippines for the entire year of 1982.

### External debt

To finance the BOP deficit, the regime has to borrow from abroad. It is estimated that the regime incurred an additional \$2.2 billion (₱20 billion) in debts last year, raising the Philippines' external debt outstanding to more than \$17 billion (₱153 billion). This would mean that each Filipino is indebted by ₱3,000 to foreign lenders.



Although the regime was able to borrow \$2.2 billion in 1982, the same amount went into payments for interests and part of the principal of previous loans.

To ease the BOP problem, the regime allowed the peso to depreciate against the dollar. The peso-dollar exchange rate had depreciated to ₱9.20 at the end of 1982, a peso higher than that at the end of 1981. Although exporters stand to gain from this, imports will become more expensive.

With the increase in the cost of imported raw materials and equipment for local industries, prices of local products also went up. Commodities will be even more expensive as soon as Marcos gives the go-signal for new taxes and price increases, specially of oil products (see news story on page 10). Naturally, any increase in the prices of commodities is acutely felt by the ordinary worker and peasant.

On top of the problem of high prices is the fact that the income of the toiling masses decreased in the past year, driving them deeper into misery.

The income of peasants went down with the decline in the prices of sugar and coconut products and increase in production costs. The income of workers also declined due to shutdown and rotation in production. Many lost their jobs because of lay-offs and the folding up of enterprises.

Those who lost their jobs joined the swelling legions of unemployed, estimated to make up more than 40 percent of the labor force last year.

On the other hand, many enterprises had to retrench or shut down temporarily because of the rise in production costs and declining sales.

#### GNP

Another indicator of the decreased income of the masses and slowdown in production is the minimal growth of the gross national product (GNP), the sum total value of all products and services produced in the country.

The GNP growth for 1982 is estimated at 2.6 percent only. This is the lowest growth in the economy since 1963. This is also the lowest among member countries of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) in the past decade (1970-1979), and in the past year as well. The rate of population growth is even higher than the GNP growth rate, so that in effect, the economy has made no progress at all.

The US-Marcos regime blames the global capitalist crisis for the present state of the economy. But it is the regime which is mainly responsible for having tied the Philippine economy more closely to US imperialism, the pillar of the world capitalist system.

In exchange for the political and economic support of US imperialism, the Marcos clique runs the economy to suit its interests and those of US monopoly capitalists. Based on its semicolonial relations with the US, the Philippines also strengthened its economic relations with other imperialist countries, notably Japan.

But these ties with the imperialists have resulted in benefits only for them, and not for the Philippines. Imperialist domination and the Marcos clique's puppetry are the fundamental reasons underlying the balance of payments problem, the country's astronomical foreign debts and its virtually zero growth.

#### Measures and policies

Under this condition, the US-Marcos regime has embarked on measures and policies to hold back the impending collapse of the economy. Of course, these measures would bind the Philippines even more to the US, and drive the masses of the people to greater misery.



At the core of these desperate moves are the rush to export anything and everything; added incentives to foreign investments; and begging for foreign loans.

As mentioned earlier, overseas Filipino workers are a major source of dollars, and were it not for them, the foreign exchange reserves would have been really depleted last year. This year, the regime will be more strict in implementing regulations on the remittance of their wages from abroad, to ensure that the government gets hold of the dollars they earn.

Aside from manpower, the regime has also tried to export various articles from butterflies to horseradish leaves. The trouble is, there are very few buyers.

To attract additional foreign investments, more and more incentives, now provided for in 183 different laws, are being proffered. These include tax discounts and exemptions, and lately, the offer of national treatment to any foreigner bringing in investments amounting to \$200,000. Needless to say, the biggest enticement for them is the low wages of Filipino workers.

Truth to tell, domestic sources provide around 90 percent of the capital needs of foreign firms, specially those in the export processing zones. And in repatriating their profits, these firms take out more dollars than they bring in. Foreign investments, therefore, only aggravate the balance of payments deficit.

The Philippine economy has been likened to a seriously ill patient, kept alive by transfusions of foreign loans. Even before the close of 1982, the regime had been pleading with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to guarantee its new loans.

The IMF gave its pledge, in exchange for a number of conditions including the trimming down of the government budget and the entry of more foreign products into the Philippines.

In acceding to the demand for budget cuts, the regime cut back on social services--health, services and others--and government investments. But the budget for the machinery of repression of the people, specially the military, remained big. However, although the budget has been trimmed down, the revenues of the government are still not enough for its expenses, so that it is raising taxes, fees and other government impositions.

In exchange for the loans of imperialists, 610 items were taken off the list of banned imports and allowed to enter the Philippines freely last January 1982. The dumping of these products on the local market not only meant the squandering of dollars on unnecessary importations, but also provided keen competition to local enterprises. As a result, Filipino businessmen suffered greater losses and employees in firms which closed down lost their jobs.

### Responsibility

It is quite obvious that the regime's measures, intended to extricate it from a difficult situation, only aggravate the problems inherent in a semi-colonial and semifeudal economy.

Subjugated as it is by imperialism, the regime is pinning its hopes on the earliest upturn of the capitalist economy from the global crisis. But in the absence today of external motive forces such as war, which can prime the economic recovery of the imperialist countries, the prospects for the Philippines remain dim.

The Philippine economy, therefore, cannot really recover from the crisis and develop fully as long as it has not liberated itself from the stranglehold of US imperialism. The crisis will even grow worse in the coming year.

\* \* \*



## RED FIGHTERS GET IN SHAPE FOR INTENSIFIED WARFARE

Five "enemy" soldiers were coming up close.

A sharp command came from the hill where the squad of Red fighters waited, crouching:

"Fire!" cried the team leader as he hurled a "grenade." It "exploded" amid the din of the squad's rifle fire.

Two "enemy" soldiers "collapsed" on the ground. The others scampered to safer locations.

The team leader once again gave orders: "Bravo, right flank! Charlie, forward! Alpha, fire!"

Not a single "enemy" soldier survived the attack.

"Okay, clean up!"

The Red fighters quickly gathered up the "enemy's" paraphernalia: one Garand, one M-79, three M-16s, and ammunition belts packed full.

"Retreat!"

And the Red fighters merrily made their way back to the camp's meeting hall. There, ambushers and ambushed alike summed up the morning's experience.

### Training course

It was a mock ambush, staged as part of a politico-military training course attended recently by a group of New People's Army fighters, both men and women, in Northwestern Luzon. As in other NPA guerrilla fronts throughout the country, the course is being systematically implemented in the region to achieve further political consolidation of the people's army and upgrade its fighting skills.

The two-week course, held in the clouded heights of the Cordillera mountain range, was attended by about 40 Red fighters and their instructors. Most of them were members of the region's national minorities.

They were divided into four squads, and the weapons they handled were of various types--buckshot rifles, old Japanese rifles, M-16s, AK-47s, Garands and others.

### Subject matter

Lectures, demonstrations and practice exercises made the subject matter come alive: history of the NPA, strategy and tactics of people's war, military work, regional military situation, first aid.

The Red fighters reviewed the milestones and lessons in the history of the NPA, its role as the Communist Party of the Philippines' main mass organization in advancing people's war, the Party's absolute leadership over the NPA, and the duties, rights and discipline of every Red fighter.

They also discussed the importance of initiative, flexibility and planning in the success of tactical offensives, which are the main form of military action in the current stage of people's war.

Each one was taught how to recognize and handle different types of rifles and pistols, take aim and fire from different positions, recharge, and disassemble and reassemble the M-16, carbine and Garand. The proper handling of grenades was also taken up.



As the comrade in charge of the training course remarked: "We are not here to learn how to fire artillery, nor how to operate helicopters and trucks. That will come. For the present, we must learn what we need to learn right now."

Among the skills they must master now are mapmaking and mapreading, and intelligence work. "In gathering data, the instructor stressed, "it is not enough to say addu (many)." Exact numbers are needed, he went on,--how many enemy troops have been going about a particular barrio, for example--in order to make correct plans.

The Red fighters studied various forms of tactical offensives such as ambushes, raids, harassment operations, sniping, arms confiscation, meting out the death penalty and sparrow operations. War games followed, in which they staged mock encounters, ambushes and counter-ambushes. The study of the tactical offensive was further enhanced by analyzing noteworthy experiences of fullfledged guerrilla units and militia units in the region and elsewhere.

They also received training in movements on different kinds of terrain, and in target practice as well. Each one was made to practice shooting from three positions, firing his rifle at moving targets which were caricatures of notorious fascist spies in the region.

A first aid course was included. With the aid of drawings, demonstrations and lectures, a doctor comrade taught the Red fighters mouth-to-mouth resuscitation, the application of a tourniquet, caring for fractured bones and the treatment of snakebite, among other things.

Military work, the instructor pointed out, is inseparable from mass work. "We will hardly make progress in the revolutionary struggle," he said, "if all we do is fight, without organizing the masses. And vice-versa." He criticized the idea that the masses can learn about revolution by waging armed struggle alone, without giving them any political education.

Revolutionary politics, he emphasized again, must guide all the actions of the people's army.

#### More advanced level

The training course was part of the effort to raise the level of guerrilla warfare in the region. By this means, the people's army in the region will certainly be able to march in step with overall developments in the advanced substage of the strategic defensive of people's war throughout the country. It will also be more capable of meeting the enemy's more systematic and intensified military reaction in the area.

In the two weeks that they were together, excellent relations prevailed among the Red fighters, who came from various fronts in the region, and between them and the leading comrades. NPA commanders are not like the officers of the reactionary army. Whether the meal consisted of dried fish, plain vegetables or wild mushrooms, officers and men shared and shared alike. Together they fixed up the training ground and improved camp facilities. Ideas and experiences were freely shared by all. With one voice they sang revolutionary songs, specially those based on their own dandang-ay, el-la-lay, salidum-ay, ullalen and oggayan.

Above all, the success of the politico-military training course held in the Cordillera highlands was proof of the masses' complete support for the revolutionary struggle in the region. The NPA is their army, and they cherish it as much as they do their terraced ricefields, the fragrant pine trees, and the gongs that beat sharply in the clear mountain air.

\* \* \*



## DRIVE VS. CHURCH PROGRESSIVES FOLLOWS IMPERIALIST BLUEPRINT

"What we are seriously concerned about is the predilection of some religious radicals who link up with subversive groups," the regime has repeatedly said in recent months, emphasizing: "The government has taken action not on the Church but against people engaged in activities inimical to the security of the state."

The line sounds curiously familiar to those who have been analyzing trends in international counter-revolution. In fact, the US-Marcos regime's dealings with members of the progressive clergy have merely been another version of the so-called Banzer Plan against socially committed church people in far-off Latin America.

Like Marcos, General Hugo Banzer was a fascist puppet dictator. He was US imperialism's hitman in Bolivia for seven years, seizing power by coup d'etat in 1971 and losing it again in the same way in 1978. He carried out large-scale repression against Bolivian workers and peasants, arousing the other democratic classes and sectors, including progressive church people, to make common cause with the broad masses.

### Latin American church

In the last 20 years, the religious sector has been considerably involved in progressive mass movements in Latin American countries. Socially-committed clergy have used the influence of the church in defense of the people's struggles, and many have even joined the revolutionary armed struggle. In 1968, Latin American bishops issued a call for active Church involvement in the struggles for "liberation from every form of servitude."

US imperialism, meanwhile, was not to confine itself to the giving of massive economic and military support to its puppet regimes. Attempts by its Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) to split and influence the ranks of the Church have been denounced by the progressive clergy in Latin America.

The Banzer Plan, hatched in 1975, consisted of a set of instructions to the Bolivian fascist military. It was later adopted by 10 puppet regimes belonging to the Latin American Anti-Communist Confederation.

The main thrust of the plan was to sharpen internal divisions within the Church. "Do not attack the Church as an institution and never the bishops as a group, but only attack in one section or part where the Church is most advanced and progressive," it said. Further: "Maintain friendly relations with some bishops and members of the Church...in such a way that public opinion does not believe that there is systematic persecution..., but that just a few members are being touched."

While controlling certain religious orders and houses "in a very special way," all priests and religious, as well as certain bishops, were to be kept under surveillance. Meanwhile, petitions would be published in the mass media "to discredit those priests and religious who follow advanced lines."

In order to avoid "unfavorable publicity," arrests were to be made in secrecy. "Once the arrest is made," the instructions said, "try to insert among their papers or in their rooms, subversive propaganda and some type of arm and have this story ready to discredit them with the bishop and in public opinion." The bishop was to be informed only after a clergyman had been arrested.

In Bolivia, where foreign missionaries make up 85 percent of the clergy, the local fascists were told: "Above all, attack the foreign clergy. Show insistently that they are responsible for preaching armed warfare and are linked with international communism and that they have been sent for the exclusive purpose of moving the Church toward communism."



One short sentence in the Banzer Plan tells it all: "Collaborate with the CIA."

### US-Marcos plot

Thus, it can be seen that the regime, with its witchhunt led by Defense Minister Juan Ponce Enrile, is actually a Johnny-come-lately in harassing and playing dirty tricks against progressive church people.

In 1982, numerous arrests were carried out, two priests were killed, and the controlled media were saturated with the regime's wild accusations against the "radical clergy." The reactionaries have been trying to stir up anticommunist fears among the ranks of the religious.

The sinister parallelism between the Banzer Plan and the moves of the local fascists should come as no surprise. Puppet regimes in the Philippines and in Latin America share a common bond, separated as they are by the vast stretches of the Pacific Ocean. They all serve the interests of US imperialism and of a handful of domestic reactionaries, against the interests of the broad masses of the people in their respective countries.

But their efforts will turn out to be vain. With the steady advance of the revolutionary mass movement, more and more church people will irresistibly be drawn to give their steadfast support to the struggle for national and social liberation. As the Communists continue to forge closer links with the masses in selfless leadership, the outmoded slogan of anticommunism will become even less effective in preventing the broadest possible unity of the people.

\* \* \*

### WORKERS' STRIKES: THE REGIME NEVER LEARNS

A total of 10.6 million manhours was lost to the US-Marcos regime from the 155 strikes staged by the workers in 1982. Though the strikes were fewer than in 1981 (see table), they were of longer duration and affected bigger companies.

Smarting from the workers' persistent struggles, the regime hurriedly passed Batasang Pambansa Resolution No. 473 last December to reimpose the absolute ban on strikes in all vital and export-oriented industries, including those in the export processing zones, at least "during the current economic crisis."

In effect, this replaces Batas Pambansa 130 and 227 which empower the labor minister and the President to ban strikes on a case-to-case basis.

The resolution does not have the force of law, but the regime issued it just the same so as to clamp down on workers' protests. The cabinet ministers have variously described the measure as an "appeal," an "administrative guideline," a "message" to both labor and management for industrial harmony during the crisis.

Clearly, however, the resolution marks the return of the strike ban of the martial law period.

Comparison of strikes, 1981-82

	1981	1982
Number of strikes	260	155
Workers involved	98,585	53,632
Average duration (days)	18	34
Manhours lost (million)	6.4	10.6

Source: MOLE

Faced by the bleakest signs of economic recovery in 1983, the regime has been trying, but unsuccessfully, to wrest from the workers their strike weapon. Only recently, the Ministry of Labor



and employment admitted its "impotence" in stopping strikes and preventing strikers from blocking factory gates.

Indeed the regime never learns. No amount of prohibition could stop the workers from asserting their right, specially as they are being forced to bear the brunt of the economic crisis.

### More profit

As the economy worsens, more profit is squeezed out of every worker.

Figures from the regime's National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) showed that the wages of workers in the manufacturing sector have not kept pace with the increase in their productivity. In 10 months, from October 1981 to July 1982, the value of a worker's production grew by 5.9 percent, while his wage grew at a slower rate of 4.9 percent.

Little wonder then that the workers, with a vengeance, hit back with strikes in the manufacturing sector as well as in other sectors like agriculture, mining, transportation and banking, as in recent years.

A walkout of 15,000 workers from 18 factories in the Bataan Export Processing Zone (BEPZ) in June 1982 sent shock waves through the regime and its foreign investors. Strikes are bound to break out again in 1983 in the export processing zones where workers feel the acute effects of the crisis. The average daily wage for a worker here does not even come up to ₱15, with the intensity of work beyond normal.

Workers at the Elizalde Tools (Elitool) Special Project, manufacturer of M-16 rifles and ammunition for the Armed Forces of the Philippines, hit the picket line before the year ended. As of December, strikes had also hit Caltex Philippines (Batangas refinery), China Banking, Mariveles Apparel and Sans-Ros (both at BEPZ), and loomed at Ford Philippines, Marinduque Mining and Industrial Corp. (Negros Occidental), Coca-Cola Bottlers (Davao), and Pantranco South Express.

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### MEDIA DRAWS STRENGTH FROM MASS MOVEMENT

In the mass media today, issues, articles and broadcasts that make frank and critical comments on the US-Marcos regime are few and far between, compared to the daily barrage of the regime's propaganda. And yet, the regime panics at any real criticism levelled against it, specially where Marcos and his wife are concerned.

Shortly after the closure of We Forum and the arrest of its staff last December, four women writers were summoned by the military for investigation, and a Zamboanga City editor-publisher was shot dead in broad daylight. Marcos lambasted a leading newspaper for publishing a statement of political detainees who were on a protest fast.

All these showed that the regime in fact continues to rule by intimidation and the use of force, while claiming that it has restored "normalcy" through its fake lifting of martial law. Right after the "lifting" in 1981, the regime forced the resignation of a magazine editor, continued to censor news stories, and closed down two radio stations.

But even in this atmosphere of repression, increasing numbers of men and women from the print, broadcast and TV media have dared to assert their right to press freedom.



In the cities and specially in the provinces, journalists emerged to break away from press control and to exert more effort in reporting the facts as they really happened. Military abuses, fund anomalies, workers' strikes, protests against ejection and demolition, among other things, were increasingly being aired and seeing print.

### Advance of mass movement

The marked advance of the open mass movement during the last two years opened up new possibilities for the people to assert their right to be heard through the mass media. Workers and peasants trooped to radio stations, TV newsrooms and editorial offices; students, professionals and the religious held press conferences; and many strikes and demonstrations were covered by reporters.

In response to the mass movement, more and more journalists today are courageously asserting their commitment to serve the people's interest, conducting their own investigations into the problems of the people, and finding ways of overcoming the impositions of fascist rule.

From the business side, even publishers and owners of radio and TV stations close to the regime admit that more independent reporting insures an increase in readers, listeners and viewers.

The dictatorship fears, and rightly so, the immense potential of the mass media in informing the biggest number of people of the grievances and demands of various classes and sectors, thus rousing hundreds of thousands more into action against the regime. Several times it has put the lid on the emerging boldness of the media, only to find the lid coming off as the mass movement advances a step further.

In the exercise and defense of press freedom, the mass media draws its vigor and strength from the mass movement. Likewise, as the media asserts its freedom to speak and write freely, it supports and become an inseparable part of the Filipino people's struggle for freedom of speech, of assembly, of religion and other democratic rights.

### N E W S

#### Samar

Units of the New People's Army (NPA) repeatedly attacked Eastern Command (Eascom) forces in Samar last year.

Between May and October 1982, the NPA launched six ambushes, two raids and nine sparrow operations against small and isolated enemy units. Forty-one fascist soldiers were wiped out (32 were killed, three injured and six others surrendered) and 32 rifles were confiscated. Here are some of the details:

--August 15, Giporlos, Eastern Samar. A squad of the 59th PC Bn was ambushed. Seized were two M-16 rifles, one M-203 and one M-79 grenade launcher. Four soldiers, including a Lt. Demetrio, were killed.

--July 30, Catubig River, Northern Samar. Five 15th IB (PA) soldiers aboard a pumpboat were annihilated. Five M-16s and more than 500 rounds of ammunition were confiscated.

--May 27, Can-avid, Eastern Samar. Red fighters assaulted a CHDF camp on a hill in barrio Can-ilay. Five CHDF members were killed and six others captured. Six Garand rifles and two M-16s were confiscated. ●

#### Quezon-Bicol

The people's guerrillas ambushed a seven-man PC-INP patrol in General Luna, Quezon, last November 23. Three soldiers were killed while three others escaped. The Red fighters treated another injured soldier and sent him back to town accompanied by some barrio folk. The guerrilla unit seized four M-16s, magazines and ammunition.

In Camarines Sur, another NPA unit ambushed an army vehicle in barrio Halubang, Lupi, last September 26. Lt. Rigos of the 11th IB (PA) and two of his men were killed and the NPA seized one M-79 grenade launcher and two M-16s.



Meanwhile, the enemy is intensifying its fascist attack against the people of the Quezon-Bicol border region.

Last November 17, five persons including two children were killed by 31st IB (PA) elements in sitio Dungon, barrio Kinatakutan, Tagkawayan, Quezon. To cover up the crime, the victims were reported as "NPA fighters." The fascists also herded Dungon residents inside the barrio school and controlled their movement.

The fascist military also initiated a "barangay survey" in the border region to spy on the people and fish for information. ●

### Oil prices

Oil prices are going to shoot up, as a result of complementary moves by the regime and the imperialist corporations.

In the first few weeks of 1983, the public was shocked to learn the following:

1. The regime announced that it will increase the price of diesel oil, kerosene and fuel oil by at least 25 percent.

The excuse is that such an increase is necessary in order to continue paying the indirect subsidy for the imports of the oil companies, which are allegedly losing money because of the peso's fall as against the US dollar.

2. Apart from this is the effect on oil prices of two orders issued recently by the regime. These concern the increase by 3 percent of the ad valorem tax levied on the value of products, and the requirement that importers must pay customs duties and taxes in advance, even before their shipments arrive.

Because of these measures--which will affect the prices of all commodities--gasoline alone will become more expensive by 17 centavos for every liter.

These measures, as well as the price hike mentioned above, are expected to raise more revenues for the bankrupt regime.

3. The imperialist oil corporations are also planning to increase their own prices.

The imperialists and the regime are bandits acting in cahoots with each other to rob poor Juan de la Cruz. ●

### Angry teachers

Public school teachers refused to hold classes in January because the government has been cheating on its promise to give them their bonus, salary adjustments and allowances.

Manila teachers were in the forefront of the concerted mass leave. In Pangasinana, the Bicol region and Davao, many classrooms were similarly empty. Numerous other teachers' associations in the provinces expressed their solidarity and were preparing to join the protest action.

About 350,000 public school teachers all over the country failed to receive their Christmas bonus--the equivalent of only one week's pay. What's more, the regime has not carried out its pledge to raise their salaries and give their allowances.

Some officials alleged that the teachers have not been paid because to do so might arouse the "envy" of other government employes who have had no bonuses or salary increases either. Of course, as everyone knows, the regime has no money left to give their due to the teachers and other employes. On the other hand, it has squandered billions of pesos to finance its extravagant projects and bail out the flourishing business enterprises of the Marcos clique. ●

### 'Hamletting'

The Integrated Bar of the Philippines (IBP) in Davao del Sur has confirmed the continuing existence and spread of the AFP's "strategic hamlet" scheme in Mindanao.

According to an IBP report last November 13, thousands of people, most of them peasants, were herded in hamlet centers in the sitios and barrios of seven towns in Davao del Sur (Digos, the capital town; Kiblawan, Sulop, Matan-ao, Magsaysay, Sta. Cruz and Bansalan), two in North Cotabato (New Alimodian and Magpet) and six in Agusan del Sur (Awao, Sibagat, Sayon, Concepcion, Veruela and San Jose).

In Davao del Sur, some of the hamlet centers were set up as early as June 1981 while others were established between November 1981 and June 1982. In these prison-like centers, the people are subjected to fascist abuses and exploitation. Their movements, especially in going to and from their farms, are curtailed. There are controls on



the amount of food that can be bought and stocked for family use and also on the sale of farm products. The people are forced to render free labor and provide food to the fascist military.

"These are contrary to the professed policies released by the Ministry of Defense last March 2, stating that the ministry has never authorized and will never countenance the forcible grouping of people in hamlet centers," the IBP added. ●

### 'Grand cañao'

The regime staged its "grand cañao" in Baguio City amidst strong opposition by the people, specially the Igorots, to this gross disrespect for the traditions of the Cordillera national minorities.

The cañao is a festivity held by the Cordillera people in which they celebrate occasions like a good harvest, victory in battle, and weddings. Violating its real significance in order to attract tourist dollars, the regime has been holding fake cañaos in the last few years.

Thus, the show of songs, dances and rituals put up during the first week of December was accompanied by militant protest actions--a march, rally, picket and leafleteering--led by the youth and students. ●

### Cebu opposition

A ranking official of the People's Democratic Party (PDP) was arrested by the fascist military in a raid in Cebu City on December 25, on trumped-up charges of allegedly planning to assassinate the provincial governor and the city mayor.

Detained at present are Ribomapi Holganza, secretary general of the oppositionist PDP in Central Visayas; radio commentator Dr. Filemon Alberca, and five others.

The harassment against Holganza and his group is an indication that the reactionaries are extremely bothered by the unrelenting growth of the mass movement and the boldening stance of the legal opposition, according to Cebu political observers. ●

## I N T E R N A T I O N A L

### Peace movement

Thirty thousand women linked arms recently to form a human chain around a military base in Great Britain, and thousands of other protesters blocked the entrances of 20 military bases in West Germany.

The European people's peace movement is continuing to gain more strength, in its opposition to the nuclear arms race being waged between the super-powers.

This year, 572 new missiles from the US are scheduled to be added to the 6,000 US nuclear arms already deployed in Europe. The new weapons are to be deployed in Great Britain, West Germany, Italy, the Netherlands and Belgium, all members of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO).

Since their governments have no control at all over the arms--only the US and NATO would be in command when these are fired--the people of Europe are more apprehensive than ever of the terrible consequences of a nuclear war. ●

### UN condemns Israel

The world community of nations once again condemned the governments of the United States and Israel, when the United Nations General Assembly issued a call to end all assistance to Israel in pursuing its aggression against the people of Palestine and other Arab countries.

The Palestine Liberation Organization must be included on an equal footing in negotiations toward a comprehensive solution of the Middle East question, according to a resolution approved by 113 nations on December 22.

The world assembly also demanded the withdrawal of Israel from all occupied Arab territories to pave the way for Palestinian self-determination.

Despite such opposition by the overwhelming majority of the world's nations, US imperialism is continuing to aid and encourage Israel. It is taking the lead in the current talks between the governments of Israel and Lebanon, which is still occupied by Israeli troops. ●



HOW SHOULD FOREIGN COUNTRIES BE CALLED IN PILIPINO?

Comrades:

In the article on Japanese imperialism in the Philippines (AB, Pilipino edition, November 1982), we noticed that instead of "Hapon" and "Hapones," to which we had become accustomed, the words used were "Japan" and "Japanese." But in the article on the October Revolution (same issue), the word "Rusya" was used, and not "Russia."

Why is this so? In our view, it's not necessary to use English terms in these instances. The former terms are still popularly used.

Ka Luisa and Ka Cecile

Dear comrades in AB:

Why does AB use the term "US" instead of "EU" [for "Estados Unidos"] in its Pilipino edition--as, for example, in "diktadurang US-Marcos"? Could you update us here in Mindanao about developments in translation work and the propagation of Pilipino?

We welcome the attractive new look of AB's Pilipino edition!

Ka Adela

AB replies:

Forgive us if you are confused by the inconsistent use of words in AB's Pilipino edition. Sometimes, the reason for it is simple neglect on our part to stick to what had already been agreed upon. In other cases, the reason is that no firm consensus has yet been reached on some particular points concerning language.

There are times when we find it really difficult to make a choice of words. Mostly, we rely on the observation of how comrades and the people talk. Paying attention to the vocabulary of our mass papers also helps a lot. It is quite natural perhaps at this stage that not everyone will be satisfied on every point, since our national language is buffeted on all sides by conflicting influences, which on the other hand are a reason behind its vigorous development.

One example of the difficulties we meet is the one that concerns the names of countries. In the past, we used to be at a loss over the inconsistent use of terms in Pilipino. Some names were borrowed from Spanish and spelled the Pilipino way (Hapon, Estados Unidos), some English names were used (Burma, Denmark, Algeria), and there were other names which are the same in English and Spanish and which became Pilipino words without any change in spelling (Nicaragua, India).

To resolve the problem, we decided to adopt the English names of all countries (except the Philippines). The main reason was that most countries are now more commonly known by their English names. In addition, this meant less work for us; in the past, maps in the Pilipino and English editions had to be lettered separately.

That's why at present, English names, like "Japan," "United States," etc. have become part of AB's Pilipino usage. However, we use the Pilipino form in referring to world regions, oceans, mountains, rivers, etc.

Regarding what term is to be used in referring to the people of each country, there's really a problem. Many people get upset by "imperyalismo ng Japanese." But then, it also sounds queer if "Japan" and "Hapones" are made to share the same blanket, so to speak.

What do you think? We shall always welcome any suggestion from you that will help solve the problems we mentioned. ●