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# LIBERATION

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## EXPOSE THE SHAM 'LAND REFORM' OF THE U.S.-MARCOS DICTATORSHIP

No measure concretizes more fully the complete isolation of the US-Marcos dictatorship from the aroused Filipino peasantry than its "Farmers Emancipation Act" frantically proclaimed last October 21.

Conjured in the face of an inexorably advancing agrarian revolution, this act proves to be but a sterile rehashing of the sham Agricultural Land Reform Code of 1963.

In evading criminal responsibility for the unparalleled exploitation of the millions of our poor peasants, tenants, and farm workers, the fascist dictator Marcos intones the lie that land reform had failed because of the "lack of an implementing legislation and the lack of funds".

The puppet regime crudely conceals the fact that no genuine land reform can succeed in a semi-feudal and semi-colonial society unless the political and economic power of American imperialism and the big landlord-comprador class are first decisively smashed by the broad masses.

By declaring martial law, Marcos clearly establishes himself as the supreme protector and executor of the interests of American imperialism and the native big landlord and comprador-bourgeoisie class.

### The Myth of 'Land Reform'

Even a cursory examination of the grandiose "Farmers Emancipation Act" will show that it can never offer liberation to the millions of exploited peasant-tenants and farm workers.

Under the spurious "land reform" scheme of the dictatorship, lands operated on a large scale and on a mechanized basis are categorically exempted from expropriation. This immediately exempts big plantations producing export crops like sugar and those



planted to permanent trees like coconut and citrus.

Also exempted from expropriation are the public agricultural lands running to hundreds of thousands of hectares acquired and operated by US imperialist agro-corporations like Dole and Standard Fruit Corporation, the Philippine Packing Corporation, and United Fruit.

The bogus code, furthermore, encourages the owners of rice and corn lands to shift

to the production of sugar, not only to escape expropriation but also because of the favored position of sugar as an export crop in our neo-colonial trade with the US.

These built-in reactionary provisions in the code, together with the decontrol policy and the rapid devaluation of the peso under the US-Marcos regime, have immensely benefited the imperialist corporations and the big landlords and compradors but never the peasant-tenants and the farm workers.

#### Vast Lands Under Imperialist Control

The large mining enterprises and logging concessions owned by imperialist and big landlord-comprador capital have further aggravated the land problem through their direct seizure of lands from the peasants and national minorities.

The operation of these highly profitable ventures have also caused the wanton destruction of wide expanses of agricultural lands due to uncontrolled mineral and chemical wastes and indiscriminate logging. The imperialist and comprador mining and logging concessionaires are directly responsible too for the disastrous floods that hit the country every year.

Imperialist control over our public domain is further concretized by the fact that some 200,000 hectares of land are today under the direct control of US military and naval bases. All of these choice lands could be immediately put to more productive use by the Filipino people.

#### Peasant-Tenants More Exploited

In the scant areas where "land reform" could be tried, the fascist dictatorship glibly guarantees the smooth transfer of land to the peasant-tenants after a leasehold period of 15 years. This is to be effected supposedly through a system of cooperatives which would guarantee payment of the land under leasehold.

Concrete experience for more than two decades since the passage of a series of inutile "land reform" codes completely belies this assurance.

The rural cooperatives, together with other credit agencies of the puppet government, are supposed to facilitate the extension of low-interest loans. The poor peasants, however, can rarely make use of whatever meager loans are available because they can offer no collateral aside from their uncertain future crop share.

Already heavily indebted even before they are initiated as leaseholders, the

destitute peasant-tenants are thus invariably forced into heavier debts as they grinly fend for themselves.

This, in spite of the lower land rent (25% of the average of the last 3 annual harvests preceding the rent reduction agreement) formally guaranteed by the 1963 Code.

The high-sounding cooperatives program can only benefit the rich peasants, the local bureaucrats, and the landlord class.

The US-Marcos dictatorship will further make use of this scheme to facilitate the appropriation of the agricultural produce of the peasants. As a policy for regimenting peasant life, it is another counter-revolutionary scheme aimed at containing the agrarian revolution.

#### Small Not Big Landlords Are Targets

In a recent interview, Marcos openly assured the landlord class that "all forms of government assistance, particularly credit, will be extended to enable them to engage in industrial pursuits and to purchase undeveloped, alienable, and disposable public lands". The fascist dictator's contempt for the peasant masses is rivalled only by his inordinate concern for the landlords!

Even this typical double talk, however, is meant solely for the small landowners since the big landlords under the Emancipation Act have no cause for fear or alarm in the first place.

Again, even in the case of the small landowners, the dictator also cleverly conceals the fact that the promised green pasture for them has long been appropriated by imperialist and big landlord-comprador capital.

#### Fascist Militarization Not Land Reform

The irredeemably bankrupt puppet government will find it more and more impossible to release funds even just to maintain a facade of "land reform". With a foreign indebtedness already approaching \$2.5-B and with the continuing devaluation of the peso the dictatorship will surely intensify its exploitation of the broad masses.

In response to the world-wide crisis of imperialism, American monopoly capital has already exacted from the Marcos puppet regime the necessary changes to ensure the systematic exploitation of Filipino labor, the unlimited repatriation of superprofits,

and the more intensive appropriation of local capital.

The Investments Incentives Act, the free trade zone agreements, among others, and finally, the declaration of martial law, will certainly assure the imperialist corporations and big landlord-comprador capital enormous profits at the expense of the Filipino people.

Marcos has already started the massive build-up of a non-productive reactionary armed forces to protect US imperialist investments amounting to more than \$2.0-B, and to suppress the revolutionary movement of the aroused masses.

For this year, the US-Marcos clique easily appropriates a gargantuan budget of ₱1.2-B for the reactionary armed forces. Up to this day, it fails to release the initial capitalization of ₱1.5-B for the Land Bank, almost a decade after the passage of the Code!

Forced savings imposed on government and private agencies and more repressive taxation schemes are already being implemented to finance the non-productive military.

The US-Marcos dictatorship rants about a "New Society" anchored on a "land reform" program that will broaden the "middle class".

It is easy to see that this "New Society" can only lead to the further entrenchment of the oppressive power of American imperialism, the big landlord-comprador bourgeoisie class, and the bureaucrat-capitalists.

Only the national democratic revolution of the aroused workers, peasants, the student-youth, the professionals and the intelligentsia, and the progressive and nationalist businessmen can provide genuine freedom and liberation for all.●



### 'ZONA' TACTICS BOOMERANG ON FASCIST TROOPS

Armed goons of the reactionary AFP who have been conducting "zona" and other high-handed fascist operations are encountering more difficulties from day to day as an aroused people's revolutionary fervor rises ever higher.

The fascist brutes got what was coming to them when they conducted a "zona" in the urban poor community of Gulod, Balic-Balic, Manila, at 2 a.m. last October 15.

Two truckloads of a combined Metrocom-MFP force were breaking into one house after another when they were met with gunfire from two militant activists who were determined to fight to the death rather than surrender to the goons of the "New Society".

Three EC gangsters were killed in the initial fire from the two national democratic partisans. They expended all their bullets and felled many more fascist troops before laying down their lives for the cause of freedom.

The abusive AFP forces had also been getting their just deserts from other militant citizens elsewhere in the city.

Accompanied by two informers, a carload of uniformed hoodlums of the Metrocom were driven off by the urban poor community of Santol-Ibaba in Sampaloc district.

Under the leadership of oppressed working class families, the residents used darts, spears, stones and "sumpak" shotguns in forcibly ejecting the fascist intruders.

The Santol-Ibaba residents said they would have another "surprise" for the fascist troops should they persist in their repressive methods.

At the Vergel community in Pasay City, meanwhile, residents showed their solidarity with national democratic forces when they tipped off and concealed leading activists upon the approach of an AFP "zona" force.

The fascist troops left empty-handed and grumbling.●

## CITIZENS STEP UP MOBILIZATION

Probably unknown to the dictator Marcos, with his cordon sanitaire and his self-deceptions, citizens all over the country are intensifying mobilization not only to resist his fascist regime but to finally bring about national liberation and democracy.

Struggle is being waged in various forms and in various fronts -- from the armed raid by anti-fascist forces on the Marcos military installations in Marawi City to mass actions in many other parts of the country.

From reports reaching the LIBERATION desk, popular resistance has been burgeoning and rising to higher levels in direct proportion to the dictator's campaign of naked force which has ranged from petty graft (extortion) to cold-blooded massacres of civilians in Isabela and Central Luzon.

Just recently, the executive committee of the Movement of Concerned Citizens for Civil Liberties met and called upon all affiliates and all other freedom-loving groups and individuals in the country to intensify the people's resistance until the downfall of the military regime.

The meeting was held despite the absence of MCCCL Chairman Jose W. Dickno, who was among the first to be arbitrarily arrested and detained upon Marcos' formalization of his fascist military dictatorship.

The conferees decided to adopt new political and organizational guidelines to conform to the new situation.

The MCCCL's executive body also adopted

### MARCOS MEDIA DO A LAZARUS

First reports of the Marcos owned and controlled media said the Mindanao freedom fighters who raided the fascist AFP's facilities in Marawi City lost 13 dead. The AFP, these same media said, lost 9 dead.

A subsequent report said the raiders lost 47 dead.

Still later, the Marcos media said the Mindanao anti-fascist forces lost "50 to 60" killed while the AFP had only 3 deaths.

At the rate the Marcos propaganda machine is going, it may yet end up reincarnating all the AFP fatalities while wiping out every single Maguindanao, Maranaw, Tausug and others of the national minorities in Mindanao.

a resolution describing the imposition of martial law as a "declaration of war" against the Filipino people.

It likewise approved an open letter in which it urged the people to "cast away all fear and illusion and prepare for great struggles to regain and assert the people's civil liberties and democratic rights".

Martial law, the MCCCL said, showed "not strength but the essential weakness of the US-Marcos dictatorship".

Citizens elsewhere in the country were massing and forming new fronts to combat US-Marcos fascism.

In Bago Bantay, Quezon City, indignant citizens have been staging one demonstration after another. Town meetings also were being held in the barrios of Paltok and Krus-na-Iigas in Diliman, Quezon City, and at North Triangle, also in Diliman.

At Plaza Miranda -- site of two heinous massacres by Marcos' armed goons and erstwhile cradle of urban dissent -- citizens have been gathering in guerrilla fashion, denouncing the dictatorship and expressing an iron will to resist.

Not long ago, armed civilians in Njvaliches, Quezon City, and on Escape, Project 4, also in QC, ambushed and routed fascist Metrocom troops rushed to the area to suppress dissent.

Coupled with the rousing successes of liberation forces in the countryside, these instances of resolute resistance to martial law by the masses are proving the people's preparedness for a protracted people's war against the US-Marcos fascist regime.

### IMELDA'S FAISE FRONT

The dictator's wife Imelda called in the so-called society couturiers recently and asked them to "tone down" their fashion designs "to correspond to the requirements of the 'New Society'".

For her part, she said, she would set the example for austerity. Indeed, she had been appearing in public in simple dresses made of local materials.

What many do not know, however, is that very recently, she asked couturier Christian Espiratu to purchase from abroad 72 cashmere chests where she now keeps her fancy and very expensive "terno" encrusted with diamonds and other prized stones.

She's probably waiting for the next bash with Christina Ford or with the decadent royalty in Iran.

## AFP TROOPS REBUFFED IN MINDANAO

Troops from the reactionary Armed Forces of the Philippines have suffered heavy losses not only in the Marawi City raid by Mindanao freedom fighters but also in an ambushade by Tausugs in Sulu resisting the fascist rule of the US imperialist puppet and dictator Marcos.

LIBERATION was informed that a Col. Doble of the Philippine Air Force, attached to a military unit in Jolo, Sulu, had expected the Tausugs to surrender as many as 30,000 firearms. Only about a hundred were surrendered, however.

When Doble sent troops to intimidate the Tausugs, these were ambushed by the Tausugs. The intruding AFP troops suffered heavy casualties.

The rebuffed PAF colonel has since returned to Manila to ask for reinforcements equivalent to a battalion each from the PAF, the Navy and the Army.

The Tausugs remained undaunted, however, and have served notice that they would fight to the death any attempt by the dictatorship to deprive them of their firearms which are their only means of defending themselves from marauding AFP troops.

Earlier, some vacillating leaders of Sulu were reported ready to accept martial law, out of fear for the dictator Marcos.

But they, too, were not prepared to surrender their firearms because then they would jeopardise their own security.

The dictator had hoped to use such Mindanao leaders as Senator Mamintal Fajano and some congressmen to persuade the Maguindanaos, Maranaos, Tausugs and other national minorities in that region to surrender their arms.

These leaders were reluctant to comply not only because they would be practically asking the people to expose themselves to armed attacks by the reactionary AFP, but because they stood to be repudiated by the people and declared as betrayers of their welfare.

In Cotabato, the situation was similar.

LIBERATION correspondents reported that former Governor Udtog Matalan was bent on resisting the Marcos military regime.

Three other leading Cotabato datos also reportedly were prepared to fight rather than be subjugated. These are Datu Sanki of Ampatuan, the mayor of Sultan Kudarat town, and Datu Aratuk.



It was learned, meantime, that Matalan's decision to resist the dictatorship was further strengthened by the brutal treatment of his trusted men by the AFP fascists.

It appeared that soon after the declaration of martial law, his secretary, who purportedly was wanted for murder, and his driver were picked up by the soldiers.

They were tied up, loaded on a military truck and driven to a mountain where Matalan's secretary was pushed off the truck and shot dead.

Matalan's driver was able to flee, however, and has since reported the incident to the former Cotabato provincial executive.

Matalan, as reported earlier by LIBERATION, has gathered a big armed force and has sent word to the military that they would fight off any attempt to make them surrender their arms and be crushed under the heels of the dictatorship.

Incidentally, the Col. Doble mentioned earlier in this news item was reported to have travelled from Jolo to Manila on a commercial airline because Marcos has restricted the use of PAF planes.

It seems the only person the fascist chieftain can trust these days is his own wife.⊙

Since the imposition of martial law, the US-Marcos dictatorship has been stridently claiming through its paid hacks and "fortune tellers" that a business boom is at hand and that the Philippine economic picture has never been prettier.

Contrary to their frantic allegations, however, the economic stagnation which obtained prior to martial law has made a turn for the worse, and present conditions indicate a sharpening economic crisis.

**Mass Unemployment**

Swelling the ranks of the unemployed upon the imposition of martial law are legions of mass media workers, teachers and radio-TV entertainers.

Subsequently, thousands of government employees were dismissed. Thousands more were arbitrarily laid off by imperialist and big corporation corporations, sanctioned as they were by the anti-labor policies of the US-Marcos dictatorship.

Thousands of advertising workers have also been laid off by advertising firms because of the loss of media outlets and the folding up of many firms. Admakers-Dentsu has already closed shop while the Advertising Marketing Associates (AMA) laid off 60% of its work force. The Philippine Promotions, Inc. (Philprom), was also forced to dismiss 50% of its employees.

On the other hand, thousands of transport workers also lost their jobs as a consequence of the limitation on travel under martial law. Philippine Air Lines (PAL) had to lay off 1000 of its personnel because of the ban on international travel, while Pantranco laid off 2000 of its workers.

**Filipino Businessmen Threatened**

Filipino businessmen remain uncertain of what the future holds for them and thus hesitate to expand or even make plans for future operations.

Many have been forced to close shop following the imposition of martial law. Mass media, advertising, and printing businesses are prime examples.

Filipino capitalists like the Jacintos, the Lopenes, the Elizaldes and the Cojuangcos have been deprived of their corporations. The dictator made an "example" of the Jacintos by confiscating five of their corporations.

The growing uncertainty of the business climate has caused even F.N. Zuellig Co., a

German chemical and pharmaceutical firm, to reduce operations to 25% of total capacity.

**American Business Strengthened**

While trampling Filipino businessmen underfoot, Marcos and his cohorts have been stumbling over each other in their efforts to curry favors from American monopoly capital. Speaking before the summit meeting of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, puppet spokesman and CIA fair-haired boy Alejandro Melchor, Jr., boasted that "martial law is for the protection of foreign investments".

Indeed, Marcos has gone a long way to protect imperialist capital and has even completely blunted the possible adverse ef-



fects on imperialist investment of decisions like the Supreme Court ruling on the Quasha case and the question of "vested rights".

In fact, Marcos even bragged about offering foreign investors terms "more beneficial than those offered by Indonesia". The fascist dictator obviously wants to sell out the national patrimony faster and

more thoroughly than his fellow dictator and puppet Suharto.

To this end, Marcos recently offered a system of choice service contracts to foreign petroleum exploration outfits. This is but one of a series of moves which will surely encourage the tightening of the imperialist stranglehold on the economy.

For their part, American and other foreign investors have been effusive about the "favorable climate" for foreign investment now prevailing in the country. Sam Esterbrooks, resident vice-president of the First National City Bank of New York (FNCB) was quoted as assuring some puppet technocrats that US-AID dollars have been earmarked for immediate release.

Emboldened by martial law, FNCB granted a \$50-M loan to US Industries Phils., after having frozen the latter's application for nearly 10 months.

Similarly, a multi-million-dollar loan was granted by the World Bank to Western Mindoco to finance its massive mining of our rich copper deposits.

#### What's Good for U.S. is Good for Marcos

In quick succession, Marcos has reduced the stock transfer tax from 2% to 1% and suspended the capital gains tax. These were meant to encourage trading in the stock exchange in view of the huge interests of imperialist capital, the big comprador-bourgeoisie, the big bureaucrat-capitalists, and the Kuomintang speculators in the stock market.

Marcos himself stands to profit enormously from a recovered stock market, owning as he does millions of shares in various companies, including Oriental Petroleum and Mining Exploration Corp., Marcopper and Benguet Consolidated, Inc.

Hoping that the market could sustain an upward trend afterwards, trading in large volumes was initiated by government agencies like the GSIS and SSS. The market experienced an artificial slight recovery but most of the issues never reached their par values. A long fatal slump is clearly at hand.

#### Prices Up, Up and Away

Even while extorting superprofits thru his corporations, Marcos makes a lot of fanfare about keeping prices down. He brags about having cut down the rates of Mersico, but what he did was simply to reduce by 15% the rate increase which was approved by his Price Control Council in the first place.

Predictably, too, the American oil monopolists are set to contest the provisional ₱.02-per-liter price increase granted to them prior to martial law. As their demand for a higher price increase is sure to be granted by the puppet government, the prices of many commodities and services linked with the petroleum industry are bound to increase further.

#### Dangers of Inflation

Of late, there has been an inflationary tendency with the increase in prices of prime commodities coupled with the unbridled expenses for non-productive endeavors such as the costly military machine and the bureaucracy.

Compounding the situation, the removal of currency controls has resulted in a deteriorating balance of payments with the continuous profit remittances of foreign investors and importation of foreign goods at higher exchange rates.

In view of the uncertain climate over the economy, petty bourgeois investors have been trying to recover their investments and bank depositors have been withdrawing their savings. Moreover, lending institutions are hesitant about granting loans.

To ease the credit situation, the capitalization of the PNB was raised and Marcos sent his lapdogs to beg for loans from abroad.

Furthermore, the Central Bank has recirculated old paper money which was meant to be burned, and printed new ₱2 and ₱5 bills and minted ₱.50 and ₱1 coins without the corresponding dollar reserves to back them up.

Meanwhile, the "sinking" peso is sinking ever lower. In the Hongkong money market, the peso hit a record low of ₱7.36 to the dollar (US\$1) after martial law. The day is not far off when the peso will only be worth its weight in paper.

#### Social Contradictions More Acute

Undoubtedly, martial law has provided the conditions for the sharpening of contradictions in a semi-feudal, semi-colonial country such as ours. The poor and the not-so-poor become poorer and even some of the rich are dispossessed. Filipino businesses stagnate or wind up being bankrupt. In the meantime, the imperialists, big landlords and comprador big bourgeoisie become richer as they enlarge the scope of their plunder of the nation's wealth.

Meanwhile, as the stranglehold of American imperialism, feudalism and bureaucrat-capitalism tightens over the nation, the oppressed masses close ranks to resist and overthrow the US-Marcos dictatorship. @

## PERSECUTION OF WORKERS UNABATED

The country's workingman continues to suffer under the meretricious "New Society" of the US-Marcos dictatorship.

Various reports from the labor front showed that workers in many industries have become vulnerable to such difficulties and abuses as mass lay-offs, reduction of the work week to two days with corresponding slash in pay, lengthening of working hours without commensurate increase in wages, and abolition of night differentials.

The workers can hardly alleviate their plight because the dictator Marcos has deprived them of their right to strike. They could hardly even talk about strengthening their unions without courting arrest for "rebellion", "sedition" or "conspiracy".

### Workers Robbed by Management

Reports reaching LIBERATION showed that the daily wage of workers at the Purefoods Corporation has been slashed from ₱8.00 to ₱6.00.

At the San Miguel Corporation, mainstay of the American imperialist Sorianos, the working hours were increased from 8 hours to 12 hours a day without a corresponding

increase in wages. The workers' night differentials also have been scrapped.

At the Central Textiles Company (CENTRALTEX), working days have been reduced to only two a week. The workers now report for work on a rotation basis and are paid their wages on a daily basis.

While many of the commercial and industrial enterprises reduced their work force because of a cut-down in operations occasioned by uncertainties under martial law, many others took advantage of the US-Marcos dictatorship to intensify the exploitation of their workers to maximize their profits.

### Persecution Rampant

Meantime, the dictatorship continued to use strong-arm tactics against progressive unionists.

The KKM union office at the San Miguel Glass Factory in Tondo was raided by fascist troops from the Metrocom. Nine militant workers were arrested.

The union-busting and strike-breaking Soriano management readily supported the fascist troops and went one step farther by forcing other unionists to accept resignation papers which it had itself prepared.

Those who protested were served termination papers, while others were told to "cooperate" or face prolonged incarceration at Camp Crane.

The militant workers were not cowed, however. Those pinpointed to have been active in organization and politicalization decided to quit their jobs and dedicate all their efforts to revolutionary underground work.

Another management which has launched a campaign of persecution against its workers is the PEMCO in Pasay City.

Nine of the workers were kicked out of their jobs for the reason that in the past, they had been very active union members. Other workers in this company are due for expulsion in a second round of anti-labor measures by the management.

Exploited and oppressed before martial law, and now abused further by the US-Marcos dictatorship, the urban workers are realizing that only by struggling in alliance with their brother workers in the countryside can they hope to liberate themselves. ●

### SOLDIERS ARE MERE ROBOTS

Canga!

This is what many motor vehicle drivers think of soldiers in the Dapitan, Sempaloc area.

It appears that the drivers were gathered in front of the Land Transportation Commission office in Kanlaon, Dapitan, waiting for their clearances and licenses.

Without ceremony, a group of soldiers swooped down on them, saying, "Disperse! Demonstrations are prohibited under martial law!"

It took an LNC employee to clear up matters. The people in the crowd were waiting for their licenses, he patiently explained to the soldiers.

Sheepishly, the soldiers said they thought a rally or a demonstration was being staged. They then left.

The flabbergasted drivers were thus exposed to a sample of "utak bulati" among soldiers roaming the streets under the US-Marcos "New Society."



## WHAT THE WORLD PRESS SAYS

In a futile attempt to shut out the truth, the dictator Marcos has imposed a blockade on news from abroad adverse to his military regime.

Among his first acts upon assuming dictatorial powers was to ban the entry of copies of TIME magazine which had for its cover story a critical piece entitled, "Will the US Support Another Vietnam?"

Notwithstanding the dictator's blockade on information, however, LIBERATION has acquired through several concerned citizens

tary base for the Pentagon and an economic base for US exploitation.

"Marcos has promised to introduce a program of economic reform, including land reform. But for almost 7 years since he became president, he has done nothing to mitigate the wretched plight of the masses or to give land to the landless peasants.

"Marcos' seizure of power follows in the familiar pattern of the Greek colonels and other desperadoes serving US imperialism.

"Marcos, like the Greek colonels and the

National  
Liberation  
Movements



copies of foreign press commentaries, which are hereby reprinted:

NEW YORK TIMES:

"...Is (Marcos') motivation what he claims it to be?"

THE ECONOMIST OF LONDON:

"The 'new society' Mr. Marcos says he intends to construct with his newly acquired powers -- a country purged of corruption and social injustices -- is no more than a sonorous slogan evocative of Lyndon Johnson's 'great society'.

"Public venality, endemic in the Philippines, has probably never before been on such immodest display as in the past few years. Public funds have been blatantly diverted for partisan and personal political gain, and seldom has it been so evident as now that 5 per cent of the people own 95 per cent of the country's wealth. All this, placed alongside Mr. Marcos's declaration of good intentions, has created a chasm in credibility which will take more than catch phrases to bridge."

DAILY WORLD:

"Marcos' dictatorial assumption of power is aimed at quelling mass discontent (and at) safeguarding the Philippines as a mili-

Tel Aviv militarists, like President Thieu, is an example of the regimes for which the American people are called to sacrifice the lives of their young men and the fruits of their toil."

NEWSWEEK:

"...After 7 years in power, Marcos' personal popularity is at rock bottom; he has done little to alleviate the endemic poverty, corruption and social inequality that scars the Philippines."

THE GUARDIAN:

"President P. Marcos has given up all pretense of democracy in the Philippines.

"By imposing martial law..., the Manila government has elevated the Filipino liberation struggle to a higher stage.

"Marcos hopes to unite the largest factions of the upper classes ... behind himself. If he can succeed in restoring normalcy he can keep the backing of the US and gain new loans.

"Given the objective conditions of the economic crisis and the expanding struggle of the New People's Army and the Communist Party, Marcos' martial law might prove to accelerate rather than slow down the liberation of the Filipino people." ●

## CHRISTIANS ON MARTIAL LAW: 'A GREAT INJUSTICE'

Christians, both of the cloth and of the laity, are up in arms against the imposition of martial law and are now waging resolute struggle against the US-Marcos dictatorship and its many abuses and brutalities.

Under the banner of the Christians for National Liberation, Christians of differ-

archy and superiors of religious orders in the Philippines.

The bishops who signed the statement addressed to the dictator came from as far north as Laoag City (Ilocos Norte) and Tuguegarao in Cagayan, and as far south as Iligan City (Ilanon del Norte) and South Cotabato.

They included Bishop Alejandro Olalia of Lipa, Archbishop Federico Lamon of Lingayen-Dagupan, Archbishop Carmelo Morelos of Butuan, Bishop Reginald Arliss of Marbel, South Cotabato, and Magr. William Brasseur, vicar apostolic of Monteflores.

In the statement released through the CNL, the laymen and the priests and nuns and ministers and pastors cited the profound implications of martial law on the people's economic and cultural life.

They said it constituted an "unmasking" of the fascistic nature of the state rather than an indicator of the "radical reformation" that the dictator Marcos had been prating about.

They also disproved all illusions about the alleged benevolence of the military regime and the alleged validity of passive protest, and said events were showing the people the "correct recourse" towards causing its downfall.

Saying that Christians must continue to wage a united and resolute struggle against the people's economic, social and political enemies, the CNL added:

"We must struggle to be vigilant over what we still have and to expand our circles. We must dare to give all, knowing that our faith offers us no other way to truth and liberation but the struggle whose experience is already purifying us."

In their own letter-statement to the dictator Marcos, the bishops and superiors of religious orders said that "after long and thoughtful deliberation," they were deeply disturbed because they knew conditions in their respective areas and were fully convinced that martial law was totally unjustified.

"...The 'new society' you speak of has to be brought about by force, by the restricting mode of martial law," they told the dictator. "From our experience with our people, we stand convinced that no lasting change of heart ever comes from change decreed by fiat. True conversion comes only



*"The Christian who is not  
a revolutionary  
sins against the people"*

~ FR. CAMILO TORRES

ent persuasions have served a stern warning on the military regime that they have cast off their "meek and mild" mien and are mobilizing to help bring about its downfall.

The Catholic hierarchy also has abandoned its conservative stance and has joined the masses of the Filipino people in opposing the ruthless depredations of the US-Marcos clique.

Acting under the aegis of the CNL are thousands upon thousands of patriotic nuns, priests, ministers and pastors, and laymen.

The leaders of the Catholic clergy, on the other hand, have made known their indignation in a statement that the Catholic Bishops of the Philippines, through president Archbishop Teopisto Alberto, has presented to the fascist chieftain Marcos.

The statement was later supplemented and supported by members of the Catholic hier-

from persuasion and good example...., not from fear or coercion."

They then demanded that:

1. Martial law be out short.
2. Those detained in military camps for whatever reason be dealt with fairly and justly in civil courts of law and that the innocent be released as soon as possible.

3. Even before the final lifting of martial law, basic freedoms like those of speech through mass media be restored to the citizenry.

Unless these are done, and immediately, the leaders of the Catholic church said, "we fear that this repression will lead to greater ills than you set out to correct."

They added that the fact of repression alone "is a great injustice."

At last report, they were in consultation with one another and with others in the church for more positive steps to end the military dictatorship. ©

### FRISON ISLANDS

Key officers of the Armed Forces of the Philippines have confirmed reports that some islands are being converted into concentration camps for citizens arrested arbitrarily and detained illegally by the US-Marcos dictatorship.

These officers told LIBERATION that Verde Island had been the destination of navy ships bearing scores of arrested citizens, mostly youth activists.

Still unconfirmed were reports that the construction of concentration camps is under way on Corregidor.

The arrogant and fascist defense secretary, Eurile, had previously warned that exile would "most probably" be the fate of those who opposed the US-Marcos clique and who were arrested under martial law.

The use of islands here for the exile of political prisoners finds parallel in the bloody coup in Indonesia in 1965 by the fascist forces of the US puppet Suharto, and the eventual suppression of all dissent under martial law in the country.

To this day, thousands of Indonesians continue to languish on the prison island of Buru. ©

### EXTORTION, "NEW SOCIETY" STYLE

When the dictator Marcos speaks loftily about plans to "reform society," it is not generally known that the "tong" system also is to be reformed — upwards.

Most jeepney drivers who have been victims of the "New Society" tong collection will tell you that the fat Manila traffic cop who used to extort money from drivers for the least infraction is a piker compared to the Metrocom troopers.

Where the corrupt traffic cop used to settle for ₱2.00 "panghabe," the Metrocom brutes want ₱10.00 and not a single centavo less.

Said one despairing driver: "Sobra na. Sobra na. Sobra na. ang presyo ng langis, pati ang tong taas din. Bago pa tayo sa utang. Nabuti pa mamundok na."

One private driver reported to LIBERATION that he had to shell out ₱250.00 to Metrocom soldiers when they threatened to bring him to Camp Crane. His fault was that he did not hear immediately of the new ban on tinted glasses in car windows and was not able to have the shade in his car window removed.

A De la Salle College student parted with ₱70.00, the only money he had, when he was accused of double-parking when he paused briefly by the curb.

"New Society," indeed! ©



### 'HAPON' ALL OVER THE PLACE

Two Japanese stragglers have been roaming the wilds of Lubang Island in Mindoro, it is reported.

This is hardly news. The 'Hapon' are very much around abusing the people, only this time, they are in PC and other APP uniforms. ©

## APP RUNS AMUCK; RESISTANCE WIDENS

Fascist troops of the US-Marcos military regime have intensified their campaign of suppression against the people throughout the country, contrary to the shrill and insistent propaganda of the Marcos-controlled media that all had been peaceful.

Correspondents' reports reaching the LIBERATION desk indicate that stormtroopers of the AFP were running amuck in the provinces, unloosing one atrocity after another.

The reports dealt with a variety of abuses, from repeated "sonas" in Greater Manila launched purportedly to "purify" the area of dissenters and national democrats, to carpet-bombings of barrios in Isabela and the mass murder of barrio folk in that province.

Citizens, of course, can never hope to read or hear of these in the Marcos tabloid, Daily Suppress, or on the radio stations now under the tight control of the dictatorship.

### Isabela Carnage

ILAGAN, Isabela, Oct. 20 -- Accustomed to the perpetration of massacres and "sona" tactics, fascist troops in this province have intensified their campaign of suppression against the people.

There is an almost daily round of arbitrary arrests and cold-blooded murders, counting among their victims innocent children.

Barrio folk, mostly settlers, are forced to leave their homes and placed in concentration camps similar to the "strategic hamlets" of the US-Thieu clique in Vietnam.

The fascist troops have been indiscriminately branding citizens as "NPA members or sympathizers" and have been rounding them up and subjecting them to unspeakable indignities and torture.

The other barrio folk are forced to leave their homes, which are then looted and burned. The barrios of those who refuse to leave are carpet-bombed by Philippine Air Force jets.

On one occasion, three suspected NPA members were murdered by the fascist troops and their bodies were left along the highway.

But far from being intimidated, the people of this province have been joining the people's revolutionary movement and are now

fighting for freedom and national democracy.

### Long-Haired Youth Slain

HAGONOY, Bulacan, Oct. 11 -- A young man was murdered by puppet troops here last week. His only fault was that his hair was long.

From witnesses' accounts, LIBERATION learned that the young man was in a Manila-bound provincial bus which was stopped by a squad of PC soldiers in the outskirts of this town.

All the passengers were ordered to alight.

Young men with long hair and young women wearing mini-skirts were told to stand in one group and all the others in another.

The long-haired youths were then told to align by the side of the bus.

Without further ado, the fascist PC troops got hold of their hair and proceeded to bang their heads against the bus.

One youth who tried to escape from the physical abuse was promptly mowed down with



Portrait of a Filipino Artist (PLA '72)

PORTRAIT OF THE FILIPINO  
IN THE 'NEW SOCIETY'

Armalite and carbine fire. He was later branded by the PC as an NPA guerrilla.

The young women in mini-skirts were also molested by the sadistic troopers.

#### Drunken Soldiers Kill Girl

BARANGKA, Loyola Heights, Marikina, Rizal, Oct. 12 -- An 11-year-old girl was shot and killed Thursday night by a group of drunken Metrocom soldiers at the so-called "land for the landless" community here.

According to invite Barangka residents, the fascist troops started getting drunk in the afternoon, and by evening, were "target-shooting" with their Armalites.

When they spotted the girl, two of the soldiers fired at her, hitting her in the

chest and left thigh and killing her instantly.

#### Tondo Slayings

TONDO, Manila, Oct. 14 -- Metrocom soldiers dealt summary "justice" to two men whom they accused of being pickpockets.

A lawyer told LIBERATION that he was passing Tondo's North Harbor when he saw the soldiers accost the two men and told them to "confess".

When they denied the accusation, they were told to back up against the wall. The soldiers then pointed their guns at their heads and blasted away.

The lawyer said he could neither eat nor sleep for some time on account of his traumatic experience. ■

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### PEOPLE'S MEDIA COUNTER DICTATOR'S LIES

The dictator Marcos is a sharpshooter in more ways than one.

His murderous marksmanship has already felled hundreds of unarmed militant workers, peasants and students.

Now, with Marcos' military rule imposed at the point of US-supplied Armalites, we have another example of his marksmanship.

The dictator has veritably killed two birds with one stone in summarily dealing with the country's mass media.

First, by padlocking mass media establishments and by causing the arrest and imprisonment of progressive journalists and writers, he has silenced critics in the bourgeois press.

Second, by closing down the offices of the newspapers and the radio and television stations, he has eliminated all competition for his media which now enjoy a monopoly.

Let's take a look at the Daily Express, or Daily Suppress as it is better known. From the start, everybody knew it belonged to Marcos.

At the onset of its operation, the Daily Suppress came out 40 pages and sold at ₱.10 a copy. People bought it because they could read the comics section, solve the crossword puzzle, get amused over the inanities of some of the news sections, and sell the paper for scrap and still recover their ₱.10 investment.

It was clearly a losing proposition, but Marcos, who was loaded with the people's money and who was out to sabotage the mass media, was prepared to lose more than ₱5,000,000.00 for the first year alone.

With the closure of the media accomplished under martial law and the competition gone, Marcos reduced the number of pages from 40 to 24 and sometimes 22 and 20.

#### Who's Profiteering?

While piously preaching that "profiteering is punishable under the law," Marcos and his paid hacks in the Daily Suppress increased the paper's advertising rates from ₱17.00 to ₱58.00, or an increase of almost 350%.



## Daily Suppress

THE US - MARCOS DAILY NEWSMAGAZINE

The dictator and his hirelings have so enjoyed the bonanza that they have put out an evening edition and even an edition in Filipino.

Then there is the Marcos-owned Kanlaon

Broadcasting System (Channel 9 but better known as Channel K-9).

It was always a second-rate outfit, but with the padlocking of the other TV channels, it has increased its rates by 400%.

Where before, TV advertising cost only ₱1,000.00 per one-minute spot, Channel K-9 now charges ₱4,000.00. A one-minute commercial in the "name" shows costs as much ₱8,000.00.

From all indications, the Marcos-owned media are having a field day not only because of the unfair advantage conferred on them by martial law but because no less than BIR Commissioner Misael Vera has been conscripted to act as "advertising manager" of both the Daily Suptess and Channel K-9.

Anxious to keep his post and to please his boss, Vera now goes around twisting the arms of businessmen and asking them to advertise in the Marcos media. The "penalty" for non-compliance, Vera manages to imply, is harassment through the filing of tax cases.

#### New Marcos Paper

Today, flushed by his media's "success," Marcos has come out with still another newspaper called the Times-Journal. It is staffed by hacks recruited by the dictatorship to bolster further its propaganda machinery which already includes the public funds-supported National Media Production Center and the Voice of the Philippines.

#### THE TIMES JOURNAL



#### THE US - MARCOS DAILY NEWSPAPER

Incidentally, the use of the word "Times" in the new propaganda sheet's mast-head bodes ill for the Manila Times, which remains closed.

And what of the other newspapers and radio and TV stations?

On imposing martial law last September 21, the fascist chieftain Marcos said these would be allowed to reopen "in due time". It looks now that "in due time" will never come, at least not while the dictator has not gone the way of his idols, Adolf Hitler

and Benito Mussolini.

In the face of all these developments, what are the Filipino people to conclude? And what are they to do?

#### People's Media Emerge

At best, the country's mass media fought their battles from a liberal and reformist

KBS



#### THE US - MARCOS TELEVISION STATION

standpoint and within the narrow confines of the bourgeois laws.

Indeed, many of them were fettered by the various other business and industrial interests of their owners and could not, therefore, be wholly for the public welfare.

With the mass media offices closed, a golden opportunity has come to the people to take up their own pens and form new media -- genuine mass media of, for and by the masses.

Armed with revolutionary consciousness and determination, the masses have now vigorously drawn upon their unlimited wealth of creativity and resources to emerge with their organs of truth.

Numerous papers have sprung up in communities, schools and offices in bold defiance of the fascist regime. Pamphleteering, Operation Pinta, Operation Dikit, mass actions, discussion groups, propaganda by word of mouth -- these, too, have proved most effective.

All these show that lies, no matter how many times repeated, can not be believed by an awakened people, that absolutely no market can exist for sham propaganda.

As long as the US-Marcos dictatorship persists in its fascist suppression of the people's rights, no amount of thought control can hold back the wave of truth.

Hitler and Goebbels failed. Marcos, his US imperialist masters and his mendacious media will fare no better. ©