

# LIBERATION

PUBLISHED BY THE PREPARATORY COMMISSION OF THE NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC FRONT

VOLUME II NO. 9

DECEMBER 27, 1979

## Churchmen, lay leaders arrested

Violating an agreement with the Catholic hierarchy, the Marcos dictatorship has continued to round up anti-fascist members of the clergy and clamp them in military prisons.

Balita ng Malayang Pilipinas reports that more Catholic priests and lay leaders have been arrested in the Visayas.

They include:

1. Fr. Woodrow Gubuan, director of the Bacolod diocese radio-television station and professor at the Sacred Heart Seminary.

2. Fr. Emilio Henares, a secular priest active in organizing much-oppressed sacadas (migratory workers) in the sugarcane haciendas.

3. Carlos Aliones, a prominent sugar planter and active lay leader in Negros.

4. Two secretaries in the Family Life Apostolate under Bishop Antonio Portich.

The priests' arrest and imprisonment are in violation of an agreement

(Continued on page 2)

## NPA raids Tarlac camp; 8 PC, BSDU men killed



TARLAC, Tarlac -- A detachment of the New People's Army launched a pre-dawn surprise attack on the PC-BSDU camp in barrio San Juan, this town, last Nov. 28.

Eight PC troopers and BSDU men were confirmed killed in the NPA's daring assault, which lasted from 1 a.m. to 1:35 a.m.

Before withdrawing, the NPA unit entered the camp and confiscated a Browning automatic rifle, six M-1 Garand rifles, an M-16 Armalite rifle, a 22 cal. "paltik", and hundreds of rounds of ammunition and

other military equipment.

The NPA operation was carried out with the decisive support of the barrio people and several BSDU members, according to informants.

The same sources said that the residents of San Juan and the nearby barrios were only too happy to help the NPA in getting rid of the PC soldiers and BSDUs stationed in the area, because they "terrorize the barrio folk, steal their money and other belongings, and increase the suffering of the people".

Last of a Three-part Series

## LIFE UNDER MARTIAL LAW

(A SURVEY BY CHURCH LEADERS)

About 80 per cent of the tenant farmers are not covered by the Marcos land reform because landlords take advantage of its loopholes. On top of this, small land holdings not covered by reform were redefined from seven hectares maximum to 24 hectares. Rice and corn lands, which are covered by the reform, are planted to other crops or are converted into fishponds or subdivisions. Lands are subdivided among the heirs of landlords and the status of tenants is changed to agri-

cultural workers.

Landowners generally refuse to part with their land, even if under the government land reform, tenants are required to pay an exorbitant price. Harassment, threats and outright evictions are resorted to and politicians and government officials are against the idea of land reform.

These are the findings on the effects of the Marcos land reform  
(Continued on page 3)

## FFF group demands Marcos quit Dec. 30

The Filipino Freedom Fighters, an anti-dictatorship organization, has demanded that on Dec. 30 the dictator Marcos yield power to a provisional government which would hold a presidential election within three months.

The demand was embodied in an open letter to the dictator, dated Dec. 1 and widely circulated especially in the Greater Manila area.

The FFF had earlier written ano-  
(Continued on page 2)

## CHURCHMEN... (Page 1)

reement signed last Nov. 26 between the military and a church liaison group represented by Brig. Gen. Guillermo Pecache, AFP home defense chief, and Bishop Felix Perez of Cavite.

In the agreement, the military promised to inform bishops or religious superiors about the arrest of any clergyman and, whenever possible, to place those arrested in the custody of their superiors.

The latest arrests were made in Bacolod City towards midnight last Nov. 30, according to BMP. The PC raiders reportedly also sought Fr. Eduardo Saginsin but failed to locate him.

Also in late November, the PC raided the Redemptorist monastery in Tacloban City and arrested Fr. Emerardo Maningo. He is now confined at the Third PC Zone stockade in Cebu City.

In Manila on Dec. 1, military intelligence operatives went to the Xavier House, headquarters of the Jesuit provincial in the Philippines, in search of Fr. Jose Blanco

and Mrs. Lulu Ledesma, president of the Family Life Apostolate of Bacolod City. Neither of them could be found.

Meanwhile, in Cebu City, the PC picked up Fr. Rudy Abao on orders of the Third PC Zone commander, Brig. Gen. Luis Amor.

The PC charged Fr. Abao with printing and circulating "subversive literature", including a pamphlet entitled, "Amor's Amores" (Amor's Loves). ●

## FFF... (From page 1)

ther open letter to the dictator reminding him that under the 1935 Constitution, he was supposed to call a presidential election last Nov. 12 and to relinquish the presidency on Dec. 30 to his duly elected successor. The dictator ignored the demand.

In its Dec. 1 letter, the FFF said recent events "have made it more obvious than ever that your real objective in imposing martial law is to perpetuate yourself in power".

It observed that besides not holding an election last Nov. 12,

the dictator had in past weeks "redoubled efforts...to criticize and downgrade the principles and practices of a democratic government" and to denounce it as "a 'sick' society".

"While it must be admitted," the FFF said, "that the erosion of values came about by the collective abuses and action of many sectors in the country, the ugly truth remains that if there is any one Filipino, living or dead, who most contributed in making it sick, it is you, Ferdinand Edralin Marcos."

The anti-dictatorship organization pointed out that in Marcos' 25 years of having been either in the actual seat of power or in its most inner circle, he not only performed badly in office "but have now become the symbol and epitome of evil government".

In this connection, it called attention to Marcos' accumulation of wealth through anomalous means, his subversion and domination of the Constitutional Convention, his bungling of the economy, and his perpetration, along with his warlord cohorts, of lawlessness in the country. ●

concluded.

In a separate report circulated in the US, Schirmer also criticized the presence of two Marcos-sponsored delegates in the Moscow conference. He attributed this anomaly to the policy of the Russian government and its growing economic and diplomatic interests in the Philippines. ●

## Schirmer: US aid to Marcos a threat to peace in Asia

The "rape of democracy" by the Marcos dictatorship and US support for this regime "merits the attention and condemnation of progressive world opinion", Prof. Daniel B. Schirmer declared in a position paper circulated in an international peace conference in Moscow last Oct. 25 to 31.

Entitled, "US Support for Philippine Dictatorship: Threat to Peace and Security in Asia", the paper by the well-known author and lecturer on Philippine affairs was presented to the World Congress of Peace Forces. It was officially endorsed by a large majority of the representatives of American anti-imperialist and peace organizations. (See boxed item at right.)

Representing the Philippines Information Bulletin, a publication-member of the National Committee for the Restoration of Civil Liberties in the Philippines (NCRCLP) in the US, Prof. Schirmer also spoke on the floor in condemnation of the Marcos regime and US aid to it.

Schirmer said US imperialism has "big stakes" in the Philippines,

including "two huge military bases, over two billion dollars of investment, and a major share of the two billion foreign debt of the Marcos government".

Schirmer revealed that Marcos received \$83 million in US economic and military aid for 1973 and is appealing for 3100 million for 1974.

It is no wonder then, Schirmer said, that the position of US big business has improved. He added:

"Marcos has thrown critics of multinational corporations in jail; he has opened Philippine resources in off-shore oil to exploitation by US firms; he has allowed foreign investors full repatriation of their capital and profits, and is considering a reduction of the tax on dividends."

"The Marcos dictatorship and US aid thereto are attempts to nip growing nationalism in the bud, to check a movement for effective independence... (But) it is likely that the Philippine popular resistance will continue to grow..." he

### Telegram sent by Australian delegation

NATIONAL PREPARATORY COMMITTEE:  
WORLD CONGRESS OF PEACE FORCES  
1st November 1973

RE, THE AUSTRALIAN DELEGATION TO THE WORLD CONGRESS OF PEACE FORCES REPRESENTING DIVERSE PARTIES AND MOVEMENTS FROM AUSTRALIA, CONVEY OUR GREETINGS AND SOLIDARITY TO THE PEOPLE OF THE PHILIPPINES IN YOUR STRUGGLE AGAINST THE FASCIST POLICIES OF OPPRESSION OF THE MARCOS DICTATORSHIP AS AGENTS OF U.S. NEO-COLONIALISM.

THE PRESENTATION OF YOUR STRUGGLE AT THIS CONGRESS HAS STRENGTHENED OUR DETERMINATION TO KEEP YOUR STRUGGLE BEFORE THE AUSTRALIAN PEOPLE.

FRATERNAL GREETINGS  
(Sgd.) JOHN LLOYD

# Life Under Martial Law

— From page 1 — (A SURVEY BY CHURCH LEADERS)

contained in the national survey conducted last October by the Association of Major Religious Superiors of Men and Women, which represents 94 Catholic orders and their congregations.

Cited as a major obstacle to the distribution (with compensation) of land are the politicians who work against it, and the PC, local police and the courts, which take the side of the landlords.

## LTCs MEAN LITTLE

"Land transfer certificates... mean little," the survey said. In Cebu, share-tenancy remains in effect despite the issuance of LTCs. In Leyte, farmers returned their LTCs because they could not obtain sufficient credit for production, besides having to pay high amortization rates.

"Availability of credit is low," the survey noted, "...and there are numerous complaints that credit is given only to the wealthy." Poor peasants still rely on traditional sources of credit at high rates of interest.

Only a very small number of farmers are given technical assistance. Available fertilizers and improved seeds are not enough and are supplied only to Samahang Nayon and Masagana 99 participants.

## SAMAHANG NAYON WILL FAIL

Irrigation has not improved at all. Middlemen still control marketing, and there are hardly any marketing cooperatives.

Though membership in the Samahang Nayon is ostensibly voluntary, farmers are pressed to join. They resent the high membership fees and the schedule of forced savings. The feeling among the farmers is that the Samahang Nayon will fail. "Its educational program is weak," the survey noted. "Its leadership is poorly trained. It is imposed from

above."

The farmers are generally cynical about the Masagana 99 program. It fell short of the 100,000 hectares planned for cultivation and planting to high-yield varieties. In Mindanao, the Masagana 99 crop was eaten up by locusts, and in Laguna by leaf hoppers. Irrigation was lacking in Central and Northern Luzon.

As for the rice shortage, no solution is seen in the foreseeable future. Last September's supply of rice was 745,000 cavans less than that of August. Last October's supply was also short of the average monthly requirement.

"The Federation of Free Farmers can no longer function normally," the survey said of the Church-led farmers' association. Oftentimes it is not granted permits to hold seminars and meetings.

## "SQUATTERS"

The survey also covered the so-called "problem of squatters" in the whole country, noting that the plight of squatters has not improved under martial law.

The squatters resent being forcibly removed from their areas of residence for the sake of government beautification and cleanliness campaigns. They feel that the government is more concerned with legalities and beautification than with their human dignity.

Conditions in relocation areas are sub-human. There are no lights, no water. Public transportation is inaccessible, and the resettlement areas are far from their places of work. Their meager earnings are spent mostly on transportation.

In Greater Manila alone, there are about 201,000 "squatter" families, the survey said. The Presidential Assistance on Housing and Resettlement Agency (PAHRA) claims to have evicted 10,357 families

since the imposition of martial law.

To defend their rights and resist eviction orders, "squatters" organizations have been set up. Many of their leaders have been arrested and charged with subversion.

## CPP marks 5th anniversary

The Communist Party of the Philippines (Marxist-Leninist) observed yesterday the fifth anniversary of its reestablishment with the appraisal that the present national situation "is more excellent than ever before for raising the revolutionary struggle to a higher level".

In a statement issued by its Central Committee, the CPP said:

"The suffering of the broad masses of the people is daily becoming more acute and intolerable. No amount of fascist propaganda can cover up the relentless inflation, constant increase of the tax burden, food and fuel shortages, continued devaluation of the peso, worsening unemployment, outright reduction of wages, aggravation of the agrarian problem, accelerated superprofit remittances by the foreign monopolies, mounting foreign debts, technical smuggling and unbridled corruption and extortions by the fascist dictator and his gang. The worsening economic crisis incenses the broad masses of the people and ensures the consistent advance of the revolutionary movement."

Assessing its own performance in the five years since its reestablishment on Dec. 26, 1968, the CPP said it had won ideological, political and organizational victories "unprecedented in the entire history of the Philippine revolution".

It restated its firm determination to lead in the revolutionary struggle against the US-Marcos dictatorship which, it said, "is currently the concentrated expression of the oppressive rule of US imperialism, feudalism and bureaucrat capitalism."

In the armed struggle, the CPP said its military arm -- the New People's Army -- "has wiped out significant numbers of enemy effectives, engaged in land reform step by step and established local organs of democratic political power in the countryside". e



★EDITORIAL

## Marcos must be removed

The current wave of arrests especially of anti-fascist elements in the Catholic clergy and in the academic community is fresh evidence of the US-Marcos dictatorship's utter bankruptcy and isolation and of its growing panic upon the close of its "constitutional tenure". For indeed the 1935 Constitution decrees that Marcos relinquish office on Dec. 30, 1973.

But there are more compelling reasons than mere usurpation of power beyond Dec. 30 why Marcos and his cohorts must finally be driven out.

The Filipino people will not forget such gross crimes of Marcos as the various cold-blooded massacres against the people, the huge kickbacks and wanton raids on the public treasury that have made him among the wealthiest people on earth, and his massive overspending in the 1969 election which triggered an inflation from which we suffer to this day.

His rightist coup d'etat of September, 1972, is fresh in our minds. So is his shameless puppetry and servility to US imperialist interests as reflected in his "new constitution" and in many of his decrees, his accumulation of more and still more wealth, and his brutal suppression of even the mildest form of dissent.

Today, even with the backing of the resources of US imperialism and of the reactionary AFP, and his monopoly of the traditional mass media, he cannot conceal from the Filipino people and from the world at large the deepening crises that beset the country from day to day.

Clearly, the fascist dictatorship must be put to an end to pave the way for the establishment of a truly democratic government whose sole interest would be to serve the great masses of our people. We must not delude ourselves any further that Marcos will give up power voluntarily.

The dictator shall be dislodged from his seat of tyranny only by the unity and collective efforts of our people. It is in answer to this need of forging a popular unity to overthrow the dictatorship that the banner of the National Democratic Front has been raised and a great step forward has been taken. No amount of repression from the dictator can reverse this movement for genuine democracy, nor prevent his inevitable downfall.

## Diokno, Aquino in 'solitary'

PORT BONIFACIO, Rizal (BMP) -- Senators Jose W. Diokno and Benigno Aquino continue to be subjected to harsh treatment by the military. They are still confined in separate isolation cells at the maximum security unit (MSU) in this camp.

Aquino is in a cell devoid of sunlight while Diokno, because of a recurrent illness, is allowed fresh air and sunlight. Their cells adjoin one another but they are not allowed to communicate with each other.

Diokno has been suffering from an arteriosclerotic ailment. His physician, Dr. Denton Cooley, has recommended that he be brought to the US for much-needed treatment but the dictatorship has refused to release him. No charge has been filed against him.

In the case of Aquino, no further investigation has been made of the dictatorship's charges of subversion, murder and illegal posses-

sion of firearms. He had refused to take part in his projected trial by a military tribunal, saying it was to be nothing but "unconscionable mockery".

## Drivers strike for fare hike

Jeepney drivers in Davao City carried out a second -- and successful -- strike last Dec. 3 in protest against the second round of price increases of gasoline and other oil products.

The drivers won an increase of ₱0.05 in the minimum fare, from ₱0.15 to ₱0.20.

The jeepney drivers struck for the first time last November to protest the first round of gasoline price increase granted by the Marcos martial law regime to the foreign oil companies last Oct. 20. City officials at that time assured the drivers that their demand for increased fares would be considered.

However, it was only after the second strike last Dec. 3 that the drivers got satisfaction. (BMP) ●



## 'Balikbayan' the Imelda way

The Marcos dictatorship persists in trying to confound us.

First it says that "Masagana 99" had been a whooping success, meaning that we now have sufficient rice. On the other hand, it continues to tell us through the captive mass media to mix corn with our rice.

Those claims of a bumper rice harvest are pure corn, from all indications.

The dictatorship's pretentious spokesman, Francisco Tatad, won a battle when he succeeded in "abolishing" the Media Advisory Council and its crook of a chairman, Primitivo Mijares. But he may be about to lose the war.

"Balikbayan" wire-puller Jose D. Aspiras is contemplating a "balikpuwesto" by coveting Tatad's position of press secretary which he once held, while holding on to his post as tourism secretary.

While on the subject of Aspiras, it may be mentioned that while he has been resorting to deception in an effort to inveigle overseas Filipinos to come home, the dictator's wife has been doing a "balikbayan" in reverse.

She has just returned from a globe-girdling junket with her millionaire friends in the international jet set while reaping publicity for such things as her "conferences" with the Shah of Iran and with those American heart specialists.

We are told once again that Manila is the "cheapest" city in the world. Indeed, human life and liberties come cheaply, under Marcos' martial law regime.

No explanation was given by the dictatorship why the graduation at the Philippine Military Academy is being advanced from March to January. The inside story is that the AFPwe's officer corps is being depleted in the raging people's war in the countryside and needs fresh cannon fodder -- fast! ●