

34/04/23

LIBERATION

SPECIAL RELEASE NO. 3 PUBLISHED BY THE NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC FRONT, INC. VOL. 10, NO. 1, SEPT. 1, 1990



It comes as no surprise that coup rumors are once more flying thick and fast. The ingredients are there for a massive politico-military upheaval to explode within a short period of time; the exact date has become a detail of minor importance.

Bombings have taken place more than once a day in the last two weeks, the leaders and followers of last December's coup attempt are scot-free and have been scoring political points. On the other hand, government pronouncements are almost invariably met by the people with cynicism or indignation.

The intensifying political crisis comes on the heels of deteriorating economic conditions. These past months, the country has been plagued by massive capital flight and a soaring trade deficit. A killer earthquake has caused not only further economic dislocation on the scale of billions of pesos but has also provided yet another occasion for government to display its ineptitude and corruption. The Middle East crisis, together with an impending oil price hike, threaten to fuel inflation and reduce the country's dollar earnings from our exported labor.

Four years and a half after being installed by a military rebellion cum "people power" uprising, the Aquino regime, through its acts and policies, has shed its pro-people image and exposed its pro-imperialist character. It has completely lost all claim to effective leadership and popular support. The Aquino regime has conclusively proven its incapacity to preside over the ruling system and unite the military behind its leadership — in short, it has demonstrated its gross incapacity to govern. On the other hand, the revolutionary forces have steadily grown and gained the confidence and support of greater numbers of Filipinos because they have steadfastly fought for the people's basic interests.

Amidst this intensifying crisis, various factions of the ruling class, including militarists and opportunist politicians, have been maneuvering for a takeover. Among the groupings girding to grab power, it is the factions strongly backed by the military that have the greater edge. In the final analysis, politicians who do not enjoy such backing will be impotent and vulnerable in the face of a military threat.

The major military factions and their political allies, on the other hand, have actually been advancing the militarist agenda with every coup attempt and every coup rumor, forcing all three branches of government to display the acquiescence of nervous hostages. The soft treatment extended to captured coup plotters, increased compensation for soldiers, the veto on an administrative bill returning jurisdiction of military men to civilian courts, the unconstitutional maintenance of paramilitary vigilantes and the Supreme Court decisions upholding the setting

The people to fight a new fa

up of checkpoints and the conduct of warrantless arrests are recent developments that demonstrate the military's increasing stranglehold on the Aquino regime.

Besieged on all fronts, the Aquino faction has started "studying" proposals for a ceasefire with the National Democratic Front (NDF). Devoid of any seriousness, nothing in the Aquino government's pronouncements would even hint at the resolution of the people's fundamental problems as the precondition for a just and lasting peace. All it wants is to gain some breathing space, isolate the RAM-SFP-YOU and neutralize the Ramos-de Villa faction. The NDF stands firm on its position that the solution to the crisis gripping the nation lies not in ceasefires, whether selective or nationwide, but in addressing the basic issues of foreign domination, land reform, massive poverty and mounting repression.

Imminence of open fascist rule

Meanwhile, there are growing indications that a coup either by the RAM-SFP-YOU, the Ramos-de Villa faction or a combination of such forces will succeed. Cory Aquino may well end up as a legitimizing factor in a Ramos-de Villa coup, which may be actualized via a martial law declaration. This option, while being denied publicly, is being considered and planned for seriously.

US imperialism would not deny support for a coup d'etat for as long as a prolonged shooting war among the military factions can be prevented. Neither would the US government hesitate to support an openly repressive regime, so long as the latter pursues "normalization," or the eventual restoration of the "niceties" of democratic rights and processes.

Martial law, "constitutional authoritarianism," rule by a military or "civilian-military" junta — all these are but synonymous terms to describe open fascist rule. Catchwords such as

e are ready fascist regime

"national security" and "national discipline" will be invoked so that policies that would worsen the people's sufferings could be rammed down their throats. US imperialism, maneuvering to prolong its strategic interests in the Philippines, can be expected to push for the implementation of open fascist rule in order to crush all resistance to the retention of the US military bases and the implementation of the IMF-dictated economic policies.

The crisis confronting the Aquino regime, reflects the failure not only of Aquino and her entourage of technocrats and cronies. The failure of her administration signals yet another strategic weakening of the ruling semicolonial and semi-feudal system. The much touted "newly restored democracy" has turned out to be only an illusion conjured by US imperialism and its local allies to postpone the demise of the ailing ruling system.

But the Aquino regime can no longer cover up the brutal reality of spreading poverty and misery, intensifying political repression, and undisguised foreign domination and meddling in the country's economic and political life. It has failed miserably — just as the despised Marcos dictatorship before it failed miserably.

The openly fascist regime that will take over, by ascension or metamorphosis, can be expected to be even more repressive and brutal than the US-Marcos dictatorship was. This will be determined not merely by the personal predispositions of the new rulers but by the depths to which the crisis of Philippine society shall have sunk by then. Tourists will no longer have reason to ask that well-publicized question in the early '70s: "Where are the tanks?" The new tyrants would no longer be able to afford to hide them.

Doomed to fail

The projected reimposition of fascist rule, however, shall fail to achieve its objectives. The

new militarist regime will be a much weaker one, facing bigger obstacles and adversaries. In 1972, Marcos unleashed upon the people a unified military. This same military is now hopelessly divided, with the various factions out to settle blood debts. Not only would the tactically defeated factions continue to threaten the new regime with another coup; its elements could never be relied upon to help enforce the regime's policies. Moreover, the economy will be in a worse state, with the new regime finding greater difficulty in sustaining its machinery for repression.

At the time martial law was first declared, the various sectors were not as united and organized as they are now. At that time they had not yet experienced stopping Marcos' Chico Dam and Bataan Nuclear Plant projects with militant demonstrations. At that time they had not yet had the glorious experience of the 1986 EDSA uprising or the 1987 Welgong Bayan. And the people's economic and social sufferings were not as bad then as they are now. The people shall surely confront the new fascist regime with politically costly and paralyzing mass protests. Strengthening their organizations by instituting creative measures for surviving even in the face of intense repression, the people shall develop appropriate methods for continued resistance in the new situation.

When Marcos declared civil war against the Filipino people in 1972, the revolutionary forces were few and thinly spread. From a few squads operating in only two regions in Luzon, the New People's Army has marched a long way since then, with battalions and companies now deployed across the archipelago. The National Democratic Front has gained ground, agrarian revolution advanced and the people's local revolutionary governments established all over the country. The Moro and Cordillera peoples have rejected the blandishments of the government's autonomy plan and are persisting in their struggle for self-determination in various fronts.

Such a heroic people have no reason to be terrorized by the prospects of another open dictatorship. It is US imperialism and the local ruling classes that should be worrying, for such a development would be confronted, decisively weakened and completely defeated by the populace.

In the cities and countryside, the people shall defend themselves and persevere in struggle for their legitimate demands, with all the political resources and wealth of revolutionary experience they already have within their grasp. They are also assured that the finest revolutionaries of our Motherland will continue to fight valiantly in their midst, sacrificing their very lives if need be, in the honored tradition of our country's countless martyrs.

████████████████████

In the process of resisting a succession of oppressive regimes, the people are laying the foundations of a genuinely independent and democratic government born out of the people's life-and-death struggle against decades of foreign and landlord-comprador rule.

The NDF therefore urgently calls on our people to :

Forge the broadest anti-imperialist and democratic front and resist the imposition of a new tyrannical and puppet regime!

Counteract all attempts of the Aquino government to regain its undeserved support from the citizenry! Expose and denounce its treason, repressiveness, corruption, ineptitude and unprecedented hypocrisy!

Oppose all schemes and policies that seek to tighten and prolong US imperialism's stranglehold on our country!

Frustrate all attempts from militarist quarters to terrorize the people into accepting a return to open fascist rule!

Rally the people to strengthen their ranks and militantly assert their legitimate demands and aspirations!

Gather all political and material support to further advance the people's revolutionary war!

The people shall overcome! The struggle for national liberation, democracy, peace and progress is firmly marching towards victory!

