

LIBERATION INTERNATIONAL

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40th anniversary of the Communist Party of the Philippines CPP calls for qualitative leap in revolutionary struggle

By Bagani Dong-ilay

The Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) in its statement on the Party's 40th anniversary called on the entire party to work for a qualitative leap in the armed revolution in order to "approach its goal of destroying the ruling system and replacing it with the people's democratic state."

The Central Committee expressed its gratitude to all the Party cadres and members for the past achievements of the Party. It paid its highest tribute to the martyrs who had made the supreme sacrifice in the service of the Filipino people and the international proletariat.

On the current global capitalist crisis

The CPP sees the current capitalist crisis as the worst since the Great Depression of 1929. It also asserts, "The solutions made so far, like the bail out for the financial institutions, aggravate the problem... a case of further robbing those who have been robbed to bail out the thieves. (It is) also a case of throwing away money after bad" as "it does not at all revive production, employment and effective demand. ...The bailout money is simply being used by the strongest finance monopoly groups to consolidate and enlarge their monopoly positions."

The CPP estimates that the present crisis will last for several years. It took decades for the current financial and economic crisis to grow before breaking out in the open. This will not be solved in the short term of one or two years, according to the Party.

There is bound to be a rise in various legal and illegal forms of mass resistance by the people. The US will also be limited in its capacity to intervene abroad and launch wars of aggression as it will be preoccupied with dealing with a host of problems at home.

40th anniversary, page 2, col 1 ...



Red fighters in the Bicol region, central Philippines, on parade at ceremonies celebrating the 40th anniversary of the CPP. Photo: ISNAYP.

US-backed attacks condemned worldwide CPP, NDFP condemn Israeli aggression against Palestine

By Roselle Valerio

The Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) and the National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP) joined the peoples of the world in strongly condemning the armed aggression of the state of Israel against the Palestinian communities in Gaza.

In a statement issued on 31 December, the Central Committee of the CPP lambasted the Israeli government for the "despicable crime against humanity" which has wrought unprecedented destruction. "The Israeli bombing spree is clearly the most indiscriminate and brutal ever launched by Israel in past decades in its genocidal campaign against the Palestinian people," the statement said.

It added, "The Israeli government is blinded

by its Zionist expansionist policy of refusing to concede Palestinian independence, maintaining a policy of continuous war against Palestine and seeking to wipe out the Palestinian nation."

To date, Israeli air strikes and artillery bombardment have ravaged homes, health facilities, school buildings, mosques, refugee camps, and other civilian structures, and killed more than 430 Palestinians, mostly women, children and the elderly.

Israel attacks, page 6, col 1 ...

INSIDE:
The children
and family
of the revolution
page 3

...40th anniversary, page 1, col 1.

On the domestic situation

The CPP sees the chronic crisis in the Philippines as worsening amidst the global capitalist crisis and causing further widespread unrest. It says, "The depression of the Philippine economy will worsen. The decrease of export income, foreign loans and remittances of overseas contract workers will mean less resources for Philippine production and consumption."

"The demand for jobs, decent wages, industrial development, land reform, adequate social services and respect for the democratic rights of the working people will ring louder and move the broad masses of the people to march and rally on the streets and convene at various public places."

"The people will increasingly desire and demand a revolutionary way out of the economic and social crisis as the counter-revolutionary rulers employ deception and violence to mislead and suppress them."

The CPP says that the Arroyo regime is "embarking on treason in exchange for prolonging itself in power" by pushing for charter change to cast away economic sovereignty and national patrimony, and allow foreign investors 100% ownership of land and all kinds of enterprises, in order to get US support.

The CPP says that the Arroyo regime is comparable to the Marcos fascist dictatorship in its puppetry to US imperialism. "It caninely follows the US-dictated policies of 'neoliberal globalization' and 'war on terrorism' despite the bankruptcy and total discredit of these policies."

"The US imperialists have instigated the Arroyo regime to unleash barbaric military campaigns of suppression against the people and the revolutionary forces and to prevent the GRP-NDFP peace negotiations

from proceeding to address the roots of the armed conflict with social, economic, political and constitutional reforms."

The CPP states that the Arroyo regime has closed the doors on the peace negotiations with the National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP) and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF).

On victories of the Communist Party of the Philippines

In its 40th anniversary statement, the central leadership of the CPP cited the great achievements in the past forty years in the ideological, political and organizational fields.

The Party has creatively applied Marxism-Leninism-Maoism on the concrete conditions of the Philippines. It has developed a three-level course on Marxism-Leninism-Maoism for its cadres and members to guide them in their revolutionary practice.

Not only have all attempts to destroy the armed revolution failed, the new democratic revolution through protracted people's war which the Party leads "has endured and has advanced in a big and all-round way in a country which has long been a major base of US imperialist hegemony in the entire East Asia. This is a great victory which is ever inspiring to the Filipino people and other peoples of the world."

The Party membership runs into several tens of thousands. It leads the thousands of fighters of the New People's Army and millions of organized peasants in 120 to 130 guerrilla fronts in 70 provinces, in more than 800 municipalities and in more than 10,000 villages.

The Party cadres within the people's army and in the localities have formed and are leading the mass organizations of workers, peasants, women, cultural activists and other sectors, as well as the local organs of political power – the embryo of the future government.

The CPP says the New People's Army has grown and has become the largest revolutionary army ever built in the Philippines. It is even larger than the Philippine revolutionary army which fought against Spanish colonialism in the period of 1896 to 1898, and then against US imperialism from 1899 onwards. And it is far larger than the Hukbong Bayan Laban sa Hapon (People's Army Against the Japanese) that was formed during the Second World War or the Hukbong Mapagpalaya ng Bayan (People's Liberation Army) after the war.

CPP plans for qualitative leap of the armed revolution

The CPP Central Committee is preparing a new five-year central plan to "bring the new democratic revolution to a new and higher level of development or a qualitative leap". The overriding objective of such a plan is to increase the strength of the revolutionary forces and approach the goal of destroying the ruling system and replacing it with the people's democratic state.

The plan shall include the following:

- Step up the education and training of

40th anniversary, page 4, col 1 ...



The National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP) is an alliance of revolutionary organizations with roots in the various sectors and regions of the Philippines. Its goal is to build a society that enjoys national sovereignty, genuine democracy, social justice, progress and peace. It seeks to unite with all forces willing to achieve these goals.

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IN THIS ISSUE: LIBERATION INTERNATIONAL November - December 2008

- CPP calls for qualitative leap in revolutionary struggle 1
- CPP, NDFP condemn Israeli aggression against Palestine . . . 1
- The children and family of the revolution 3
- Victorious yearend offensives of the New People's Army . . 4
- MILF Mujahideen inflict heavy casualties on AFP . . . 5
- Police fascism sparks revolt in Greece 7
- Bridging Oceans: International work of Philippine revolutionary movement 8

By Mada Sigon

Southern Mindanao – While Ka (short for kasama/comrade) Armando is participating in the meeting of the Provincial Party Committee, the squad leader of their New People’s Army unit, Ka Rene, is making sure that their duties in securing the camp are being implemented.

As a responsible cadre in the guerrilla front, Ka Armando is taking part in the summing-up of experiences in the province, while Ka Rene is administering the work of the squad through consultations, criticism-self-criticism and assessment of their daily work.

Although Ka Armando and Ka Rene carry out different duties, they also have their responsibilities towards each other as father and son. Yet today, they no longer think of taking care of their own home but of how they can achieve a bright future for a multitude of other families.

The truth is that they have never been accustomed to being together in one home. Ka Armando, 52 years of age, has been continuously active in the revolutionary movement for the past 24 years as a Red fighter of the New People’s Army (NPA). Ka Rene, 19, like his father, has also dedicated his effort and energy to the masses. “My son and I are together in the revolution”, beamed Ka Armando.

Ka Rene is the third child of Ka Armando. His parents were married under the auspices of the Communist Party of the Philippines in 1985 and they have continued to undertake their revolutionary tasks even as they had three children. After Ka Rene, three more children came. His mother stopped being a fulltime Party cadre to personally take care of the children, but she continued to undertake revolutionary work as a mass activist.

His mother died when he was four years old. She was brutally killed by the military forces of the Government of the Republic of the Philippines (GRP) when they recognized her as a former NPA and married to an active Red fighter.

The masses thus became his surrogate parents. The masses were the hands that fed him, the arms that cradled him to sleep and the soothing words that comforted in times of grief.

Only a few photographs of his mother cradling her children reminded Ka Rene of their real mother. What is clear and imprinted in his mind are the memories of the caring masses who loved them as if

The children and family of the revolution

In fighting for social justice, personal sacrifices are made. One of the hardest sacrifices a parent could experience in serving the interests of the people is being separated from their children. But such is necessary also for the protection of the children. During World War II, British and Jewish children were separated from their parents and put in the care of foster families in other countries to protect them from the ravages of war. In the Philippines where a civil war is raging, children of those actively participating in the armed revolutionary movement are put in the care of family relatives or the organized masses.



they were their own children. “Because they were the ones that took care of us,” said Ka Rene.

On the other hand, Ka Rene could not say that his father, Ka Armando, had no part in their upbringing. The truth of the matter is that the love of their surrogate parents for them deepened because the masses acknowledge the sacrifices of the people’s army. And they know that the NPA are fighting for the people’s interests. His father and the masses helped in the formation of his viewpoint and standpoint.

According to Ka Armando, the guerrilla front in which he belongs has developed a program of taking care of the children and forging a revolutionary family. Part of the program is the nurturing, by the mass organizations, of the children of fulltimers in the revolution, arranging visits of the children to the fulltime parents during vacation, sitting in the responsible committee for assessment of the family, and encouraging the participation of children, spouses and non-fulltimers in educational work, such as in national democratic schools, so that they can deepen their understanding of the revolution.

Ka Rene and his siblings grew up in an environment of the masses and the comrades nurturing and cherishing one another. Upon turning 18 years old, he did not have a difficult time in reaching his decision to join the New People’s Army where he could serve the beloved masses who took care of them.

According to Ka Rene, it is notable that the children of fulltimers are nurtured by the masses so that their thinking would not be narrowed down to the traditional and bourgeois ideas of a family. Meaning, said Ka Armando, that it is not an isolated family but a family which is part of a nation that is launching and advancing a people’s war.

“They truly are the children of the revolution,” said Ka Armando.

“The revolution is our family,” added Ka Rene, who calls his father Ka Armando just as his father calls him Ka Rene.

For the younger comrades, they also think of Ka Armando as their own father and Ka Armando also thinks of them as his own children. What prevails -- always -- is their warm caring for one another as comrades. ■

Party cadres and members on the ideological line of Marxism-Leninism-Maoism and the general political line of new democratic revolution.

- Accelerate the recruitment of Party candidate-members from the revolutionary mass movement and expand the Party boldly.
- Intensify the campaigns to arouse, organize and mobilize the people along the general line of the new democratic revolution.
- Intensify the revolutionary armed struggle and hit the targets to maximize political and military victories. The targets include wiping out armed enemy units, dismantling foreign monopoly capitalist and local comprador operations inimical to the people, and putting an end to impunity by punishing high bureaucrats and military officials who are guilty of treason, plunder and grave human rights violations.
- Raise land reform to a new and higher level towards the maximum level of distributing agricultural land for free wherever possible, while maintaining the minimum program wherever it is still advantageous to the tillers and the requirements for the maximum program are not yet present.
- Develop the guerrilla fronts toward becoming relatively stable base areas. The guerrilla fronts must be increased to the level of 168. This means having a guerrilla front in every congressional district in all the provinces. The development of stable base areas would entail, among others, the suppression

Ang Bayan

Following are partial reports of military actions launched by the New People's Army (NPA) in Mindanao, Bicol, Panay and Mindoro as the year came to an end.

18 December. A CAFGU element was killed and two others were wounded when Red fighters assaulted a CAFGU detachment in Paquibato District, Davao City at about 10:30 a.m.

Dawn of 15 December. Elements of the 58th IB and Special Civilian Armed Auxiliary (SCAA) watched helplessly as NPA guerrillas set fire to heavy equipment owned by Surigao Development Corp. (Sudecor). It was a punitive measure on Sudecor for its destruction of forests in Surigao del Sur, its unjust treatment of

and driving away of the oppressors and exploiters, and the dismantling of the reactionary organs of political power over extensive areas.

- Uphold proletarian internationalism and broad anti-imperialist solidarity (and) further develop relations with parties, people's organizations and institutions abroad not only to garner support for the Filipino people in their struggle for national liberation and democracy but also to contribute what it can and participate in the efforts of all peoples to attain greater freedom, democracy, social justice, development and world peace. ■

its workers and the abuses of the 58th IB-SCAA on the Lumad and farmers in the area.

14 December. A soldier belonging to the 23rd Military Intelligence Company (MICO) was killed in an ambush by the NPA in Mindoro island. The soldier was ambushed at around 2:30 p.m. as he was conducting military surveillance in Barangay Santa Teresita, Mansalay, Mindoro Oriental.

An officer of the Philippine National Police (PNP) in Mansalay tried to come to his rescue but he was prevented from doing so and disarmed by Red fighters.

In Agusan del Sur, a CAFGU element was wounded when NPA fighters from Front 14 sniped a detachment of the 23rd IB-CAA in Sitio Basabong, Barangay Bayugan 3, Bunawan.

13 December. A soldier was killed and another one wounded when Red fighters ambushed a military convoy in Barangay San Isidro, Bulan, Sorsogon. The soldiers were headed back to their camp when they were attacked at around 3:30 p.m.

11 December. Five soldiers of the 36th IB were killed and many other government troopers wounded when the NPA ambushed a column of the AFP unit conducting military operations in the logging areas of Diatagon in Lianga, Surigao del Sur. The NPA seized an M16 rifle and five backpacks.

The 36th IB is one of the military units responsible for the killing of several innocent civilians in Bislig City, Bunawan and Rosario in Agusan del Sur. The 36th IB also connives with a number of local government and DENR officials as well as illegal loggers responsible for denuding the dipterocarp forests in areas covered by the Forest Research Institute as well as watershed areas in the adjacent towns of Bislig, Tagbina and Hinatuan in Agusan del Sur.

9 December. The NPA seized a shotgun

NPA offensives, page 5, col 1 ...

A Party cadre conducts a training on command-detonated explosives to a unit of the New People's Army. The CPP called on an intensification of the armed struggle to wipe out armed enemy units.
Photo: ISNAPP.



MILF Mujahideen inflict heavy casualties on AFP

By Roselle Valerio

The Bangsamoro Islamic Armed Forces of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF-BIAF) continue to inflict heavy casualties on the security forces of the Government of the Republic of the Philippines in successive armed clashes in different areas in Mindanao island in the last 30 days. Latest reports reveal that at least 50 elements of the mercenary Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) and the Philippine National Police (PNP) have died in gun battles with BIAF mujahideen.

At the turn of the New Year on 1 January, mujahideen guerrillas assaulted the PNP station at Barangay Kawit, Kauswagan, in Lanao del Norte province. A few hours later, at around 5:00 am, AFP troops were simultaneously attacked at Barangays Bansayan and Odalo in Piagapo, Lanao del Sur. An hour later, BIAF guerrillas also attacked AFP troops at Barangay Talao, also in Piagapo.

According to MILF sources, five PNP personnel and nine AFP soldiers were confirmed to have been killed in the attacks, including a yet unidentified AFP officer. Many more were wounded, according to the same sources.

... NPA offensives, page 4, col 3

when they disarmed an abusive guard at a fishpond owned by the Dy Ty Ban and Libarios families in Barangay Can-aga, Malimono, Surigao del Norte.

8 December. Two soldiers belonging to the 31st DRC (Division Reconnaissance Company) of the Philippine Army were wounded in an encounter with Red fighters of the Napoleon Tumagtang Command of NPA-Southern Iloilo. The Red fighters suffered no casualties and safely withdrew from the scene after a five-minute firefight. The three columns, touted as the “elite force” of the 3rd Infantry Division and even two sections of the 47th IB that were near the scene of the fighting could do nothing to help the DRC. The military purposely brought their two casualties to the hospital in the evening to avoid detection but they were nonetheless spotted by the villagers.

7 December. Two soldiers were wounded in a harassment operation by NPA Red fighters on a military detachment in Monkayo, Compostela Valley. ■

On 16 December, eight troopers of the AFP were killed when they launched a raid on the headquarters of the MILF-BIAF in Piagapo. Two mujahideen were killed in over nine hours of fighting.

In another gunbattle in Barangay Bansayan, in the same town, two GRP soldiers were killed while the BIAF suffered three casualties.

On 11 December at around 11 am, BIAF mujahideen from the 102nd Base Command attacked AFP elements in Barangay Pantaon, Munai, Lanao del Norte, killing five soldiers and wounding an undetermined number of troopers. The military retaliated by firing mortar shells.

In the morning of 9 December, the AFP sustained its biggest casualties in this period when close to 43 soldiers of the 8th Marine Landing Battalion Team (8th MLBT) were killed in a clash with fighters of the First Brigade under the MILF-BIAF 114th Base Command in Barangay Kailih, Al Barka, Basilan. The Marines used helicopter gunships to support their ground operations and only stopped the aerial bombings shortly before nightfall. The AFP dropped

four bombs that narrowly missed a civilian evacuation center. A number of houses were also torched by 8th MLBT elements in Sitio Bakisung in the same area.

In another development, the MILF accused security forces of the Arroyo government of masterminding two bombings in Iligan City, in southern Philippines, on 18 December that killed two civilians and wounded 48 others.

In a statement posted on the website www.luwaran.com on 20 December, the MILF said it had received an “A-1 intelligence report” that the bombings would be blamed on Commander Bravo, Commander Umbra Kato and other MILF commanders. The scheme is aimed at justifying bigger and more sustained AFP attacks against territories of the MILF in 2009.

The plan was said to have been finalized after the AFP received a bigger budget and after public anger against the MILF had been fueled through a series of bombings in Mindanao that have all been blamed on the Jemaah Islamiyah and the so-called “special operations group” of the MILF. ■



Youth performers in a refugee camp re-enact atrocities perpetrated by security forces of the US-Arroyo government on the peoples of Mindanao. Photo: Arkibong Bayan.

... Israel attacks, page 1, col 3.

The CPP also condemned the US government for supporting the Israeli armed aggression, saying that, “the US imperialists have made themselves equally responsible for their puppet Israeli regime’s brutal crimes against humanity.”

“The US is Israel’s foremost criminal instigator and No. 1 supplier of arms in exchange for serving as the extension of US hegemonism and terrorism in the Middle East,” it continued.

In a separate statement issued on 31 December, Luis G. Jalandoni, Chief International Representative of the National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP), likewise condemned the Israeli aggression against the Palestinian people and singled out the US government for continuously providing its backing to the Israeli government.

“The US has vetoed every UN Security Council resolution which condemns Israeli aggression,” Jalandoni said. “Now, the US is again justifying this blatant Israeli aggression which flagrantly violates all standards of human rights and international humanitarian law.”

Jalandoni added, “The US and Israel are orchestrating a global diplomatic and propaganda campaign to unjustly blame Palestine and the Palestinian people for this latest Zionist aggression.”

The CPP and the NDFP also expressed ardent support for the struggle of the Palestinian people for national self-determination. “The Palestinian people,” said the CPP statement, “are fully justified in waging armed resistance to defend their territory and their right to self-determination against the subjugation, fascism and genocide being inflicted on their country by the Israeli Zionists.”

It declared, “The revolutionary movement in the Philippines extends its hands of solidarity to the Palestinian people and urges them to rise up in unity against Israel’s brutal crimes against humanity in Palestine.”

Jalandoni added that, “The Palestinian people have the inalienable right to their homeland, to resist the illegal and unjust occupation of Palestine, and to struggle for national and social liberation.”

The revolutionary forces in the Philippines, he declared, “join the Palestinian people, other peoples in the Arab world and peoples in other parts of the world in denouncing, exposing and combating the US imperialist backed-Israeli aggression of Palestine and



in upholding and defending the Palestinian people’s fundamental rights.”

As of this writing, the Israeli government has intensified its blitzkrieg of the Gaza strip, following an intensive aerial and artillery bombardment that have already killed hundreds of civilians and destroyed mostly civilian infrastructure. These attacks have been intended to subdue not only the 1.5 million impoverished and starving Palestinians but also the larger global community and to force another re-devision of the political map.

Despite the highly lopsided and merciless attacks however, the resistance of the Palestinian people has remained steadfast. Massive demonstrations have been reported in the West Bank, which included clashes with Israeli security forces. In the Bethlehem area, there have been daily protest actions since the start of the US-backed Israeli attacks on Palestine.

Massive popular solidarity actions have also been reported inside Israel, including tens of thousands demonstrating in Sakhnin and in Tel Aviv. In the Arab world and in numerous other locations around the world, solidarity protest actions have also been held in front of embassies of Israel and the US, and before parliament buildings, demanding a stop to the terrorist attacks of Israel and calling for support for the Palestinian resistance movement. ■

Israeli air and artillery attacks on Palestine have killed hundreds of civilians, most of them women and children. Countless private homes and civilian infrastructure have also been destroyed by the terrorist attacks, staunchly supported by the US government. Photo: <http://palestinian.ning.com/forum/topics/the-other-side-of-the-story>.

... Bridging Oceans, page 8, col 3

The Philippine revolutionary movement declares that the best contribution it can give to the international revolutionary anti-imperialist movement is to persevere in its own revolutionary struggle and win nationwide victory. At the same time, it is ready and willing to contribute what it can to the worldwide anti-imperialist and socialist movement.

It develops relations on the principle of independence, equality and non-interference. It forges bilateral relations and cooperation and also participates in multilateral gatherings and conferences. It is in the bilateral relations that it sees the greater potential for deeper common understanding and effective practical cooperation.

While seeking international political and material support, it underlines its adherence to the principle of self-reliance.

Another important part of the international work of the Philippine revolutionary movement is standing up for the democratic rights and welfare of overseas Filipinos

Bridging Oceans, page 7, col 1 ...

Police fascism sparks revolt in Greece

By Jose Emilio Jacinto III

The cold-blooded shooting of a 15-year old Greek boy in Athens by the Greek Special Police Forces has sparked a revolt that has threatened to bring down the right-wing government of Prime Minister Kostas Karamanlis.

The murder, which took place on 6 December 2008, was witnessed by several onlookers, but the Greek government initially even tried to cover up the crime by claiming the victim attacked the Special Police Forces.

This latest incident comes after years of state terror that has targeted the youth and working people and the migrant communities in Greece. Last October 2008, a Pakistani migrant was shot by Greek police without any provocation.

The people's anger at the shooting of the Greek boy, Alexis Grigopolous, was swift and widespread, that even the mainstream media has called the government claim (that the boy attacked the police) as a "blatant lie".

To pacify the youth and people's intensifying anger and dampen the build up of



Greek youth face off against security forces of the Karamanlis government. The people and the youth bravely resisted the state repression exercised by the Special Forces against the rebellion. Photo: Communist Organization of Greece.

protests, the head of the Greek Interior Ministry and the chief of the Greek Police offered to resign. Their offer was however turned down by Karamanlis.

In a statement right after the shooting, the Communist Organization of Greece (KOE) pointed to the political responsibility of the Karamanlis government and demanded its resignation.

"The Greek government armed the hand of the murderers. It is the Greek government that trains the police and teaches them," the KOE said.

Since the murder, thousands of youth and working people have launched massive demonstrations to express their indignation and revulsion of police brutality and fascism. They have raised their demand not only for justice for the slain boy, but also for the ouster of the government of Prime Minister Karamanlis. The protesters accuse Karamanlis of encouraging fascism, corruption, anti-people policies and selling out to foreign corporate interests.

Their fighting slogan is: "Down with this government of murderers and thieves!"

Massive daily demonstrations are taking place not only in Athens, the Greek capital, but also in Thessaloniki, Patras and other Greek cities.

Police have attacked the demonstrations and have reportedly used chemicals to disperse crowds. Hundreds of protesters have been arrested but were later released because of public pressure and condemnation coming from virtually a cross-section of Greek society.

Despite the attacks, the Greek youth and working people, who are the most undaunted and committed, continue to pour into the streets to demand fundamental political changes and fight state repression. ■

... *Bridging Oceans*, page 6, col 1

which now number more than eight million in more than 160 countries. The revolutionary movement motivates them to support the revolutionary struggle of the Filipino people for national liberation and democracy. In scores of foreign countries, it has encouraged and assisted Filipino immigrants, permanent residents and land-based and seaborne contract workers in forming their associations and in fighting for their own rights and interests.

The NDFP has been authorized by the revolutionary movement to conduct proto-diplomatic and diplomatic work to gain recognition and support for the people's democratic government and its status as a co-belligerent in the civil war against the US-backed reactionary government in the Philippines.

The NDFP stresses the revolutionary movement's adherence to the Geneva Conventions and the Protocols additional thereto and to international humanitarian law. It propagates the revolutionary movement's Guide to Establishing the People's

Democratic Government, the Rules of the New People's Army and other rules and policies of the movement, such as its policy to uphold and defend the rights of children. The NDFP also disseminates the Comprehensive Agreement on Respect for Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law (CARHRIHL) which was signed by the negotiating panels of the NDFP and Government of the Republic of the Philippines and approved by their respective Principals in 1998.

The worst economic and financial crisis of the world capitalist system currently causing ever more intolerable exploitation and oppression on the world's peoples and the current turmoil in the world offer greater challenges and opportunities for the anti-imperialist and revolutionary movements to raise their level of resistance. These conditions also increase the need and opportunities for revolutionary and anti-imperialist movements around the world to strengthen their solidarity and practical cooperation. The Philippine revolutionary movement is committed to help in building that solidarity. ■

BRIDGING OCEANS: International work of the Philippine revolutionary movement

By Ed Ladera

The representative of an African revolutionary movement gave his Filipino counterparts a poster depicting their revolutionary armed struggle. He said, "Send this to our Filipino comrades-in arms, so they will feel they are not alone. When we started, we felt alone, until we received a poster from another revolutionary movement. We were inspired! We no longer felt alone!"

- In Rome, in June 1980, leaders of the Eritrean People's Liberation Front met with representatives of the National Democratic Front of the Philippines. The Eritrean comrades said, "We just had a successful Permanent People's Tribunal Session on Eritrea. We are sharing our summing-up with you, so that your Tribunal will even be more successful." They then also drew up lessons from their extensive international work in Italy.
- In the early 1980s, Prof. François Houtart of the Belgian Vietnam Solidarity, gave us a unique gift. It was the sandals used by the famous general of the Vietnamese revolutionary movement, Nguyen Vo Giap. The sandals were made of rubber from US war planes shot down by Vietnamese freedom fighters. The very hard rubber made the sandals effective for the rugged terrain. They were also very durable. Prof. Houtart said he was giving it to us, so that we could send it to the New People's Army.

These are early examples of Philippine solidarity work in Europe. Since then the international relations work of the Philippine revolutionary movement has grown significantly. But its essence remains: building solidarity relations that are mutually beneficial.

Personnel of the National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP) constantly share the experiences of the Philippine struggle with other anti-imperialist and revolutionary organizations, bilaterally as well as in multilateral gatherings. Foreign comrades and friends have gone to the Philippines to attend conferences, participate in mass mobilizations and integrate in revolutionary

mass work. These exchanges have helped build ever stronger solidarity relations.

Practically since its beginning some forty years ago, the Philippine revolutionary movement has given a high premium to international work. In 1970, Amado Guerrero of the Communist Party of the Philippines stated in *Philippine Society and Revolution*: "In waging the revolutionary struggle, the Communist Party of the Philippines is highly conscious of fighting US imperialism, Soviet social-imperialism and all reaction under the great principle of proletarian internationalism and under the great policy of international united front. Whenever possible, direct relations with fraternal parties, with revolutionary movements must be established. The closest and warmest relations shall be fostered with fraternal parties and all revolutionary movements fighting imperialism, modern revisionism and all reaction."

Now, at its 40th anniversary, the Communist Party of the Philippines continues to give

importance to international work: "We must exchange revolutionary experiences and ideas with other Parties and arrive at possible and necessary forms of practical co-operation. The Party must uphold the broad anti-imperialist solidarity of the people of the world.

"Together with the National Democratic Front of the Philippines, it has long been active in promoting anti-imperialist solidarity by relating to and cooperating with national liberation movements and various people's organizations and institutions abroad. The Party must further develop its relations with parties, people's organizations and institutions abroad not only to garner support for the Filipino people in their struggle for national liberation and democracy but also to contribute what it can and participate in the efforts of all peoples to attain greater freedom, democracy, social justice, development and world peace."

Bridging Oceans, page 6, col 3 ...

Luis G. Jalandoni (2nd from left), Chief International Representative of the NDFP, with Foreign Ministry Officials of the Royal Norwegian Government and Secretary Nieves R. Confesor of the Government of the Republic of the Philippines (GRP). The NDFP conducts diplomatic work to gain recognition and support for the people's democratic government and its status as co-belligerent in the civil war against the US-backed GRP. Photo: www.government.no

