

from the local to the national level in order to further isolate the most rabidly reactionary candidates, block their assumption to power and help progressive and friendly candidates to assume office.

Opportunities provided by united front work must be used to further expand the revolutionary forces' clandestine and open linkages and to make the latter serve the further broadening of opportunities to organize and mobilize the masses. To be able to do this in the swiftest manner, openings provided by the elections must be utilized. #

# REBOLUSYON

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Theoretical and Political Journal  
of the Central Committee  
of the Communist Party of the Philippines

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**SEIZE EVERY MOMENT,  
ADVANCE THE PEOPLE'S WAR**  
Message on the 32nd Anniversary of the NPA

**STATEMENTS ON ESTRADA FALL  
AND THE RISE OF MACAPAGAL-ARROYO**  
Statement of the Central Committee, CPP  
Statements of Prof. Jose Ma. Sison

**TASKS OF THE REVOLUTIONARY MOVEMENT  
IN RELATION TO THE REACTIONARY  
2001 ELECTIONS**

Number 2  
Series 2001  
April - June  
*English Edition*

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**Editorial**

**Ang Bayan, February 2001**

Articles and communications may be sent directly to the Editorial Board of *Rebolusyon* or coursed through any organ or unit of the Communist Party of the Philippines.

Published by the Central Publishing House, Luzon, Philippines

The people's notorious enemies must not be allowed to predominate without being held answerable for their grave crimes against the people. Charges against them must be collated and publicized. Resist and destroy their political and armed machineries and campaigns to remain in, or gain, power. As much as possible, carry out punitive actions against them.

There is need to further broaden the implementation of collecting fees for allowing candidates to campaign in territories under revolutionary political power. In our experience, most candidates comply with rather than violate this policy. Violators must be meted appropriate punishment. The policy of collecting these fees may also be utilized to establish tactical alliances.

Use every opportunity to gather arms and other forms of support for revolutionary armed struggle.

***Strengthen Mass Struggles and Broaden the United Front***

The mass movement is in a favorable position to further advance and significantly influence the leading political battles outside and within the reactionary elections and parliament. This depends on the people continuously carrying out street actions and the advancement of anti-imperialist, antifeudal and antifascist struggles.

There is need to continuously assert the people's aspirations that united them in the EDSA 2 uprising. Foremost among these, we must continuously demand the arrest and prosecution of Estrada and his leading cohorts, especially in the face of legal and political maneuvers to save Estrada from punishment.

Along with this, the Macapagal-Arroyo regime's anti-people policies and moves must be opposed. We must fight for the interests of the toiling masses, among which are the implementation of land reform and wage hikes and a stop to increases in the prices of oil and other commodities.

Major openings for alliance work shall exist due to intense rivalries during the elections and beyond. Such opportunities must be utilized

choose who to put in government by exposing the fact that all big political parties possess the essential character of being pro-imperialist and champions of big bourgeois comprador and landlord interests.

The reformist and parliamentarist illusion that fundamental social change can be achieved through elections must be expunged. We must expose the theory of evolutionism being spread by the counterrevolutionary “third force” that change can be achieved by gradually strengthening influence within the parliament and the bureaucracy. There is need to clarify the central importance of revolutionary armed struggle in attaining genuine change, which is being hindered primarily by the reactionary armed forces; and the secondary but essential importance of various forms of unarmed struggle—and the primacy of organizing and waging collective mass action compared to all other forms of unarmed struggle.

While there may be various indirect and informal means of enjoining and supporting patriotic and progressive individuals and parties to participate in the elections, the Party and revolutionary forces must make an effort to clarify to them and to the masses of voters the limitations of working within the reactionary parliament and bureaucracy.

### ***Intensify Armed Struggle***

There is need to continuously advance revolutionary armed struggle and shatter the illusion that a peaceful and democratic order exists amid the widespread suffering of the masses and the prevalence of violence and criminality in various levels of the neocolonial state.

Big and small tactical offensives against the AFP and PNP must be intensified continuously. Continue to seize all opportunities to inflict wounds and deal blows against the reactionary armed forces and strengthen the New People’s Army. There is need to continuously broaden the revolutionary mass base in the countryside and advance the antifeudal struggles of the peasant masses.

## **SEIZE EVERY MOMENT, ADVANCE THE PEOPLE'S WAR**

**By Armando Liwanag  
Chairman, Central Committee  
Communist Party of the Philippines  
29 March 2001**

On the 32nd anniversary of the founding of the New People's Army by the Communist Party of the Philippines, we salute the Red commanders and fighters and congratulate them for the historical and current victories that they have won through arduous struggle and selfless sacrifice.

Let us render the highest tribute to our revolutionary martyrs and heroes. They inspire us to struggle more resolutely and vigorously than ever before for the revolutionary cause of national liberation and democracy.

The New People's Army is the main organization for carrying out the principal form of revolutionary struggle, which is the armed struggle. This is the only way by which we can overthrow the state power of the exploiting classes and establish the people's democratic power.

Since its founding on March 29, 1969, the NPA has won resounding victories under the leadership of the Party, which is guided by Marxism-Leninism-Maoism. It has carried forward the new-democratic revolution of the Filipino proletariat and people through protracted people's war against the US-dominated ruling system of big compradors and landlords.

Since the Second Great Rectification Movement, the NPA has rectified the grave errors of "Left" and Right opportunism. As a result, it has consolidated and expanded its revolutionary ranks and mass base and delivered lethal blows to the enemy.

The NPA now operates in more than 100 guerrilla fronts in the overwhelming majority of provinces of our country. It has thousands of Red fighters augmented by a far greater number of militia and self-defense units in thousands of villages. All these draw their strength from millions of people.

In pursuing the strategic line of protracted people's war and accumulating strength in stages, the NPA is waging guerrilla warfare on the basis of an ever widening and deepening mass base in the current stage of strategic defensive. It integrates armed struggle with land reform and mass-base building.

The NPA is in a position to grow ever stronger amidst the ever worsening crisis of the domestic ruling system and the world capitalist system. The proletarian revolutionaries, the Red commanders and fighters have a high level of revolutionary consciousness and are tested and tempered by battles and hard work. They can therefore take advantage of the increasingly favorable objective conditions for armed revolution.

### ***1. THE PEOPLE'S VICTORY AGAINST THE ESTRADA REGIME***

The Filipino people and the revolutionary forces are joyous over the overthrow of Estrada and his ruling clique. This is a brilliant victory. It demonstrates the power of the people to isolate and topple a corrupt and repressive regime that is servile to US imperialism.

The Party was certain of this victory when on its 32nd anniversary of reestablishment it made the call, "Mobilize the broad masses of the people to deliver the death blow to the Estrada regime!" Since October last year, the regime had become thoroughly isolated and had gone into a process of rapid disintegration.

This is a result of the resolute and militant struggle of the people and the broad united front against the regime. The broad masses of the people rose up against the servility of the regime to US imperialism and against its extreme corruption and repressiveness.

The reactionary elections aim to conjure up the illusion of democracy when, in fact, there prevails the class dictatorship of exploiters and oppressors. It is a big deception to claim that the people enjoy democratic rights because they may choose among two or more parties, when only big reactionary parties are effectively able to participate in elections. Providing limited space for some progressives and mass organizations and parties serves to perpetuate this deception.

Reactionary elections are primarily a contest among rival factions of the ruling class to decide who among them would rule and how they would divide the perks of political power.

### ***TASKS OF THE REVOLUTIONARY MOVEMENT DURING THE ELECTIONS***

The central task of the Communist Party and the New People's Army is to advance armed struggle in order to overthrow imperialist domination and the class dictatorship of the big comprador bourgeoisie and big landlords. Thus, it can not directly participate in reactionary elections.

However, it shall take advantage of the opportunities that the elections will provide to further intensify revolutionary armed struggle, advance anti-imperialist, antifeudal and antifascist mass struggles, further strengthen the influence of the revolutionary movement and broaden the national united front. In particular, it may involve itself in the elections through clandestine and informal means and significantly influence its result, with the objective of isolating and frustrating the election bids of rabidly reactionary candidates and advancing the victory of progressive and friendly candidates in order to work within the reactionary parliament as an additional arena of struggle.

### ***Expose the Reactionary Character of the Elections***

We must show the masses that the elections are a political instrument controlled by the reactionary ruling classes and used by them to fortify their rule. We must expose the deception that the elections are a means for the people to enjoy the democratic right to

# **TASKS OF THE REVOLUTIONARY MOVEMENT IN RELATION TO THE REACTIONARY 2001 ELECTIONS**

**Editorial**

***Ang Bayan, February 2001***

The May 2001 elections are a reactionary undertaking controlled by the exploitative and oppressive classes. Although they will not directly participate in the polls, the Party and New People's Army will take steps to effectively intervene in the reactionary elections to achieve revolutionary objectives.

The revolutionary and progressive forces will make use of all opportunities to isolate and resist rabid reactionaries and further strengthen the revolutionary armed movement and mass struggles for genuine social change. Along with this, clandestine and informal means of cooperation will also be undertaken with respect to friendly and progressive candidates in order for them to win in the elections and open the reactionary parliament as an additional arena of struggle.

The 2001 elections will not resolve the intense crisis of the ruling system. Because of relentless conflicts among rival factions, the May elections will most likely be one of the dirtiest, most violent and most fraudulent in the country's history. Although it may serve to consolidate the Macapagal-Arroyo regime through the victory of its candidates, intense cheating and violence in the coming polls will definitely result in even fiercer conflicts among rival reactionary factions.

By means of its control over resources, the police and military, the bureaucracy and mass media, the reactionary ruling classes have placed elections in the country under their power. Through such control, the reactionary system effectively removes any possibility for parties or groups representing the interests of the toiling masses to effectively participate in the elections.

The legal democratic mass movement had long persevered in the struggle against the US-directed Estrada regime since the beginning. It would eventually mobilize 1.8 million people at Edsa, millions nationwide and the 75,000 that marched on to and encircled the presidential palace to compel Estrada to abandon his throne. Most of them were young people.

The call for at least one million people to lay siege on the palace worked effectively to break Estrada's bravado. Upon sight of tens of thousands of people, who ignored the call of the reactionaries to keep away from the palace, Estrada turned tail and hastily fled the palace. Had he tried to stay a day longer, he would have been directly encircled by more than a million people and probably arrested.

He fell from power completely on January 20, 2001, four days after the pro-Estrada Senate majority ignited overwhelming public indignation by voting against the opening of a second envelope containing his secret bank accounts. But he would have been removed from power earlier within December had resources been available to the forces of the national democratic movement to mobilize a big core of organized masses from Metro Manila, Central Luzon and Southern Tagalog to encircle the presidential palace.

The process of overthrowing Estrada involved not only political and organizational methods like issuing political statements, holding buildup meetings, marching to converging points and delivering speeches. Cultural groups made a major contribution by producing songs, band music, theatrical performances on the streets and on stage, cartoons, and murals in order to raise the awareness and fighting spirit of the people.

Old and new methods of communications were used. Printing presses and photocopying machines worked overtime. Radio and TV broadcasts covering the issues and events related to the movement to oust Estrada held the attention of tens of millions of people daily. For several months, one radio station dedicated itself to the broadcast of anti-Estrada statements and music. Cell phone texting rapidly spread

slogans and satirical jokes. Through e-mail, newspaper websites and webcasts, developments in the anti-Estrada movement reached national and international audiences.

The campaign to isolate Estrada was thoroughgoing. Progressive members of the clergy carried the anti-Estrada message in their sermons and liturgy. They neutralized El Shaddai as the main crowd supplier of Estrada. People blockaded and picketed the mansions of his mistresses, the offices of crony firms and banks and the houses of his diehard political cronies. Unable to bear the heat of mass protests, his closest friends of convenience turned against him.

Since the beginning of his regime, Estrada had earned the people's outrage for flaunting the patronage of the hated Marcoses and the biggest of Marcos cronies and enriching himself and his wives with public funds and bribe money from criminal syndicates. He had grievously violated national sovereignty and territorial integrity through the ratification of the Visiting Forces Agreement.

He attempted but failed to have the 1987 GRP constitution amended and he pushed legislation to further sell out economic sovereignty and national patrimony to the foreign monopolies. He allowed the oil firms and other foreign monopoly firms to ride roughshod over the people.

The despicable characteristics of the fallen regime are all manifestations of the rottenness of the entire ruling system. While Estrada feasted on the spoils of power, he was actually vulnerable to being overthrown because of the ever-worsening crisis of the system, the increasingly bitter contradictions among the reactionaries and the upsurge of the revolutionary mass movement.

Estrada served the interests of US imperialism and was given the latitude for corruption and cronyism. But he was also predetermined and circumscribed by the neoliberal dogma of "free market" globalization and by the rapidly dwindling resources. The economy was laid prostrate by superprofit-taking by the imperialist firms and banks, the aggravation of local exploitation and oppression,

5. Release all political prisoners in the spirit of goodwill.
6. Revive all the bilateral agreements of the Government of the Republic of the Philippines (GRP) and the National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP).
7. Resume the GRP-NDFP peace negotiations through which basic social, economic and political reforms can be discussed and agreed upon.
8. Cease the military campaigns of suppression against the people in the countryside.

The new GRP president should be mindful that the socioeconomic and political crisis of the ruling system shall continue to worsen even after the fall of Estrada and to provide the fertile conditions for armed revolution.

The crisis is not due simply to the corruption and repressiveness of the Estrada ruling clique. These are in fact the consequences of imperialist domination. The crisis is due to the fundamentally oppressive and exploitative workings of the ruling system of big compradors and landlords who are servile to foreign monopoly capitalism.

The evils of this system will continue to inflict suffering on the people and incite them to wage all forms of revolutionary struggle. The revolutionary forces and people will continue the struggle for national liberation and democracy against foreign monopoly capitalism, feudalism and bureaucrat capitalism. #

arrogance, shameless rapacity, wanton brutality and unbridled servility to the foreign monopoly capitalists.

We are happy with our success in defeating an immoral, corrupt and repressive regime. But let us not indulge in euphoria and complacency. The struggle against the fallen ruling clique is not yet complete even as a new president comes to power. We must carry this struggle through to the end.

It can be completed only by arresting Estrada, his fellow plunderers and human rights violators, subjecting them to criminal proceedings and punishing them for their crimes. We must not let them go scot-free and enjoy the fruits of their crimes.

The people cannot tolerate any shady compromise deal between the outgoing and the incoming presidents. The change of president, from Estrada to Arroyo, should not be merely a change of chief oppressor and chief exploiter.

The people demand that criminal proceedings must be undertaken against Estrada and his cronies as well as the Marcoses and the big Marcos cronies, like Eduardo Cojuangco and Lucio Tan. All these must be held to account for their crime of plunder and compelled to surrender their loot to the people.

The forces of the national-democratic movement may continue its critical alliance with the new president, if immediately she does the following, among others:

1. Arrest and subject to criminal proceedings Estrada, the Marcoses and the big cronies and make them yield their ill-gotten wealth.
2. Reverse the antinational and antipeople policy of liberalization, privatization and deregulation.
3. Repudiate the antipeasant policy of misrepresenting land reform as voluntary sale of land or corporate shares by the landlords.
4. Give justice and indemnification to all the victims of human rights violations since the time of Marcos.

bureaucratic corruption and mounting budgetary and trade deficits and local and foreign indebtedness of the state.

After 20 years of wanton foreign borrowing by the Marcos regime under the Keynesian policy dictates of the IMF and World Bank for public works and raw-material production-for-export, the Philippines has been subjected to the more rapacious "free market" policy dictates of the IMF and WTO.

The Aquino regime laid the ground for liberalization, privatization and deregulation and abused local public borrowing. The Ramos regime went full blast on making an artificial boom with low value-added semimanufacturing and private construction by going into unprecedented rates of local and foreign borrowing until the bubble of the "emerging market" burst in the Philippines and the whole of Southeast Asia in 1997.

By the time Estrada came to power in 1998, the economy had been bankrupted by previous regimes and had sunk deeper into semifeudal underdevelopment. The illusion of "high" growth rates during the Marcos and Ramos regimes were conjured by rapid foreign borrowing and overconsumption by the exploiting classes. Estrada's political vulnerability, as a result of the worsening socioeconomic crisis, was aggravated by the shameless rapacity of his clique.

His pro-poor populist demagoguery was a big joke from the very start. He could not even pretend to be for national industrial development, land reform and improving the livelihood of the people. His imperialist masters prohibited him from speaking against the "free market" dogma. Thus, his program of "development" stood out as one of plundering the economy, promoting gambling and building mansions for his several families.

The crisis of the world capitalist system generated the socioeconomic crisis of the domestic ruling system. In turn, the latter crisis generated the political crisis and made the contradictions among the reactionaries more bitter than before. Amidst the socioeconomic

and political crisis, the corruption of the Estrada ruling clique became conspicuous.

Indeed, the ruling clique tended to monopolize the spoils of power against other sections of the exploiting classes. The comprador big bourgeois patrons of the bureaucrat capitalists recovered their sequestered assets, raided the public treasury and pension funds, cornered state contracts, engaged in technical smuggling and evaded taxes.

In the military and police, a small clique of police officers in a presidential task force became favored in the most scandalous manner with huge intelligence funds and opportunities for criminal enrichment. Their task was supposedly to combat organized crime but they operated or coddled criminal syndicates engaged in gambling, drug pushing, kidnap-for-ransom, smuggling, prostitution and other vices.

Estrada's personal rapacity knew no bounds. He required his cronies to give him advance payments of huge kickbacks amounting to far more than his "fair share" of the loot in pork barrel fund distribution, state purchase contracts, corporate mergers using pension funds, stock market scams and illegal numbers game (jueteng) and other criminal operations.

It was only a matter of time before a crony or gangmate would feel threatened and aggrieved enough to stand up and blow the whistle on him. Thus did governor Luis Singson, one among his innermost circle of cronies. From the very depths of his venal rule, Estrada was turned inside out. Public indignation led to the rapid disintegration of his ruling clique. It became possible for the House of Representatives to impeach him and the Senate to put him on trial.

Peaceful, militant and gigantic mass actions brought down the regime in so short a time because the line of the broad united front succeeded in uniting various political forces of the Left, Middle and anti-Estrada Right to concentrate their fire on Estrada. All of them agreed and moved to demand his ouster or resignation. The consistent

*Press Statement*  
*20 January 2001*

## **CONGRATULATIONS TO THE FILIPINO PEOPLE, CARRY THE STRUGGLE THROUGH TO THE END**

**By Jose Maria Sison**  
**NDFP Chief Political Consultant**

Joseph Ejercito Estrada, alias Jose Velarde, was finished yesterday as president of the Government of the Republic of the Philippines (GRP) as a result of the overwhelming mass actions of the Filipino people in Metro Manila and nationwide.

Terrified by the anticipated siege on the palace by at least a million people, key cabinet members and the top brass of the military and police have withdrawn support from him.

He has no choice but to resign and he is in no position to demand immunity from prosecution. Moreover, whether he formally resigns or not, vice president Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo can take over the presidency.

I congratulate the entire Filipino people, all the patriotic and progressive forces and the broad united front for the brilliant victory in ousting Estrada and his ruling clique from power. I praise their courage and wisdom.

I admire the tenacity and militancy of the forces of the national-democratic movement in seeking the overthrow of the Estrada regime since the beginning, well ahead of other forces in the broad united front.

I am glad to have foreseen as early as in 1998 that Estrada would not last long in power, like El Loco of Ecuador, because of his overweening

movement, the opposition parties, respected institutions and organizations of various types and growing sections of the reactionary military and police.

Military and police personnel can play a positive role if they withdraw support from the Estrada ruling clique, shift to the side of the people, neutralize the rabid military and police running dogs of the ruling clique and do not seek to form any military or civilian-military junta.

The Estrada ruling clique is poised to further repress the people, assault mass actions and explode more bombs to kill and maim civilians. In this connection, the CPP has made a timely announcement that the New People's Army will intensify the people's war in the countryside and carry out precise commando operations against the most notorious plunderers and human rights violators belonging to the Estrada ruling clique.

The economic and political crisis of the ruling system of big compradors and landlords is daily worsening. The conditions are exceedingly favorable for the advance of the revolutionary mass movement and the overthrow of the Estrada ruling clique.

Everyday that this clique remains in power, the Filipino people becomes more resolute and militant in advancing the legal democratic mass movement and the revolutionary armed struggle as complementary and interacting forms of struggle on the road of new-democratic revolution against foreign monopoly capitalism, feudalism and bureaucrat capitalism. #

mass protests of the national democratic movement provided the broad united front with a strong foundation.

The patriotic and progressive forces of the Left and Middle included the Erap Resign Movement, Bayan, Bayan Muna, Kilusang Mayo Uno, Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas, Pamalakaya, Migrante, Gabriela, Erap Resign Youth Movement, Anakbayan, League of Filipino Students, National Union of Students of the Philippines, College Editors' Guild of the Philippines, CONTEND, ACT, Karapatan, Promotion of Church People's Response, Kairos, OUSTER, Health Alliance for Democracy, Concerned Artists of the Philippines, ProGay and so many organizations of the toiling masses and the urban petty bourgeoisie. In scores of countries, Bayan International and Migrante International led a wide range of organizations of overseas Filipinos under the banner of the Erap Resign Movement.

The anti-Estrada reactionary forces included the high officialdom of the Catholic and other churches, the Makati Business Club and other business organizations, Kompil II (a small group capitalizing on the name of Cardinal Sin and former president Aquino), the Council of Philippine Affairs (associated with Jose Cojuangco, Jr.), the People's Consultative Assembly (associated with former president Ramos), the Federation of Retired Commissioned and Enlisted Soldiers (also Ramos-lining), Kangkong Brigade (anti-Estrada local officials in Metro Manila, Southern Tagalog and Central Luzon) and the United Opposition, a makeshift combination of such political parties as Reporma, Promdi and the Lakas-NUCD which then vice-president Macapagal-Arroyo put up to show that she had some base to stand on.

Clandestine work was conducted among the military and police officers in order to turn them against Estrada and a few diehard loyalists headed by Gen. Panfilo Lacson. Key personalities of the anti-Estrada Right worked on officers at the highest level. So did key activists of the Middle and Left forces on officers at all levels, especially at the middle and lower levels. The officers were urged to withdraw support from Estrada, respect the people's right to assemble and not to take power into their own hands.

As in the overthrow of Marcos, the US and the US-controlled multilateral agencies, like the IMF and World Bank, decided to drop Estrada like a hot potato in the face of the broad united front against him. The US called some generals to Washington in October 2000 for a crisis management meeting and sent out the word that the military and police forces would not attack peaceful mass actions. The US gave the advice to vice-president Macapagal-Arroyo to resign from the Estrada cabinet.

The IMF loudly decried Estrada's inability to collect more taxes and to stay within limits in deficit spending. It declared an international credit squeeze on the regime. The World Bank also decried the excessively high rate of corruption, eating up nearly half of the government budget. It sounded as if corruption were not the reward for puppetry. Even the spokesmen and analysts of investment houses and banks spoke out against the regime through the international and domestic bourgeois mass media.

The Party correctly promoted the line of the broad united front in order to arouse and mobilize at the soonest possible time the broadest possible range of forces against the narrowest target. The full range of the united front went into play: the basic alliance of the workers and peasants, the progressive alliance of the toiling masses and the urban petty bourgeoisie, the positive alliance of the progressive forces and the middle bourgeoisie and alliance with the anti-Estrada reactionaries for the purpose of taking advantage of the splits among the reactionaries and isolating and destroying the current enemy.

The policy of broad united front allows the revolutionary movement to fight, isolate and destroy one enemy after another and in the process gain strength until it becomes capable of overthrowing the entire ruling system. As a result of the victorious struggle against the Estrada regime, the revolutionary movement has indeed become ever stronger than before and is ready to enter into a new round of struggle.

As the Party correctly predicted, the "Left" and Right opportunists of the past, who became blatantly counterrevolutionary (like Romulo Kintanar, Arturo Tabara, Nilo de la Cruz, Horacio Morales and Edicio

*Press Statement*  
*18 January 2001*

## **MASS MOVEMENT MUST SURGE FORWARD**

**By Jose Maria Sison**  
**NDFP Chief Political Consultant**

Acting through his fellow rogues in the Senate, Estrada has scuttled the Senate trial by suppressing vital evidence. He has in effect acquitted himself in advance of the previously scheduled February 12 judgment day.

The broad masses of the people are seething with just anger and are determined to remove Estrada from power through the exercise of their own democratic will outside the processes and mechanisms under the control of the Estrada ruling clique.

The mass movement to oust Estrada must surge forward under the policy of the broad united front. The patriotic and progressive forces must actively cooperate with their allies in carrying out immediately on a nationwide scale and in Metro Manila the largest possible mass actions in quick response to the shameless devilry of the ruling clique.

Converging at Edsa can be advantageous if this is the consensus of the broad united front and has the purpose of encouraging the active military and police officers to join in the mass uprising and shutting down the factories and offices served by the Edsa trunkline.

If necessary, the encirclement of the palace can be done eventually, with marches from several assembly points, including Edsa, Luneta, Liwasan and other points. There is time to develop the most effective way to oust Estrada. This can be accomplished within this month, within a few months or within the year.

The broad united front to oust Estrada or to compel his resignation includes the forces and personages of the national democratic

collect political profit from their own dastardly crime and to deck out Estrada as the victim rather than the criminal mastermind.

It is public knowledge that the Communist Party of the Philippines has repeatedly declared that the broad united front and the people have already isolated the Estrada ruling clique and can remove it from power through peaceful, massive and militant mass actions and the proper place for the New People's Army to carry out its tactical offensives is in the countryside.

By carrying out terror bombings, the Estrada ruling gang is serving notice to the people that it will undertake repressive measures to quell the broad mass movement, while Estrada tries to buy his acquittal in the Senate trial or to protract this trial until it is overtaken by the 2001 electoral campaign period. Estrada's scheme is to suppress the mass movement and take its choice from either outright acquittal by the Senate or indefinite delay of the trial until the clique can cheat in the 2001 elections.

Estrada is extremely desperate and fearful of losing power, facing criminal prosecution and giving up his ill-gotten wealth. He is therefore committing the most cowardly and most heinous crimes to keep himself in power. He is not only a shameless thief but also a mass murderer through Oplan Makabayan, his all-out war policy and the current bombings.

But the broad united front and the people are more than ever determined to wage mass struggles to remove Estrada from power, precisely because of his unbridled corruption and murderous acts. #

de la Torre) and who became open agents of the Estrada regime, found their political graveyard. Even such grouplets (Siglaya, KDP, RPA-ABB and RHB) that collaborated with them but pretended to be critical of the Estrada regime are on the throes of extinction.

The ultra-Left call of Popoy Lagman's Sanlakas, demanding the resignation of all top officials of the reactionary government, was an attempt to save Estrada and was roundly rejected by the people. The call was meant to draw fire away from the narrowest target and would have run against the clear objective of overthrowing the ruling clique in four months' time.

To avoid the pitfall of Right opportunism, the forces of the national democratic movement maintained their independence and initiative. They cooperated with the unstable and unreliable reactionary allies but they avoided or refused to enter such organized frameworks as the People's Consultative Assembly, Council of Philippine Affairs and Kompil II.

The Party made it a point to stress publicly that the NPA should stay in the countryside to launch tactical offensives and not to join in the mass actions in urban areas. The Party's purpose for doing so was to dispel the fear of reactionary allies about joining mass actions, to deprive Estrada of any pretext for rallying the troops against unarmed demonstrators and to reinforce the calls of the broad united front on the reactionary military and police to withdraw support from the Estrada ruling clique and respect the people's democratic right to assemble and express themselves.

No NPA combat unit went directly into play in the urban mass actions. But the NPA played a major role in weakening and overthrowing the Estrada regime by continuing and accelerating tactical offensives against its forces in the countryside and encouraging the rural masses to participate in mass actions all over the country. The NPA launched major offensives while nationwide the number of people joining mass actions increased dramatically.

While the legal mass movement surged to overthrow the Estrada ruling clique, the New People's Army intensified its guerrilla offensives nationwide, dealt lethal blows to the enemy forces and rendered Oplan Makabayan futile. In the second half of the year 2000 alone, sixty-six (66) tactical offensives were successfully launched in 32 provinces in various regions of the country. The main targets were Philippine Army regulars and Special Action Forces, CAFGU, military assets and informers. Nineteen (19) raids were carried out on PA, PNP, Coast Guard, CAFGU detachments and police headquarters.

Through ambushes and raids, a large number of casualties was inflicted on the enemy forces and military and police vehicles were destroyed. High-powered rifles and short arms, .50 caliber and .30 caliber machineguns, 81-mm mortars, M203 grenade launchers, portable and base radio equipment and other war materiel were captured.

One puppet regime has fallen and has been replaced by another. As in the successful struggle against the Marcos fascist regime in 1986, the ruling system remains intact. But it is stricken more than ever before by crisis. And the subjective forces of the revolution have emerged stronger than ever before.

The people and revolutionary forces are satisfied that they have punished a puppet regime and in the process have gained strength. We have finished off the Estrada regime before it could realize its vow to destroy the revolutionary forces before 2004. With increased strength and high confidence, we are prepared to confront and fight the new puppet regime as circumstances demand. We shall win ever greater victories in the continuing revolutionary struggle.

## ***2. CONTINUING ROTTENNESS OF THE RULING SYSTEM***

The overthrow of the Estrada regime has provided some sense of relief. But there is no general sense of euphoria over the ascendance of Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo to the presidency of the neocolonial republic. Her rise to power is merely a byproduct of the contest of strength between the outraged people and the Estrada regime.

***Press Statement***  
***31 December 2000***

## **CONDEMN THE TERROR BOMBINGS PERPETRATED BY THE ESTRADA GANG**

**By Jose Maria Sison**  
**NDFP Chief Political Consultant**

I condemn in the strongest terms the Marcos-style terror bombings in Metro Manila and join the families of the victims and the entire people in demanding justice and in holding the Estrada ruling clique accountable.

Joseph Ejercito Estrada, alias Jose Velarde and alias Asiong Salonga, is the most probable mastermind of these despicable bombings. These are calculated to draw attention away from the overwhelming evidence against him in the Senate trial, pave the way for repressive actions and pre-empt the mass movement, which will surely mount in the first quarter of 2001.

Estrada has become so desperate by his exposure as Jose Velarde that he is resorting to cowardly terror bombings in a futile bid to extricate himself from his infamy as a big thief and plunderer. It is Estrada who has the strongest motive and utmost capability and opportunity to carry out the terror bombings in broad daylight in crowded areas through such minions as General Panfilo Lacson.

The Estrada ruling gang has done again what it did so many times in Metro Manila and Mindanao in the year 2000 to whip up anti-Moro hysteria and step up its all-out war policy in Mindanao and deflect attention from its corruption scandals.

Estrada and his minions are now putting the blame on others but themselves for the terror bombings. They are desperately trying to

3. Long marches and caravans from the provinces can bring more people to augment the residents of the national capital region.

Without having to undertake a coup to seize power for themselves, the active military and police officers can act in concert with the people and assist Mr. Estrada to resign by arresting the most rabid loyalists of Mr. Estrada in the military and police who are liable for criminal offenses and thereby persuade Estrada to resign.

The broad united front for the removal of Estrada from power extends to the retired and active military and police personnel who respect the democratic rights and support the mass actions of the people and pave the way for a new civilian administration as in 1986. #

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The dearth of enthusiasm for the new regime is due to the fact that it has the same big comprador-landlord character as the previous regime and has a high potential for corruption and repression. The new puppet chieftain is a believer of "free market" globalization. And she is not at all appreciated for belatedly quitting her cabinet post in the Estrada regime.

Among the reactionaries, the Macapagal-Arroyo ruling clique is the biggest beneficiary of the downfall of Estrada. But at the same time, it inherits an economy that is in worse crisis than before and a government that is more bankrupt and more afflicted with corruption and factionalism than ever before.

The reactionary character of the regime is underscored by Macapagal-Arroyo's exaggeration of the role of the military and police officers in the overthrow of Estrada and by her repeated obsequiously profuse expressions of gratitude to them, especially to the 11th hour defectors who withdrew support from Estrada only out of fear that their lower officers and men would otherwise disobey their commands.

Under instructions by the US, Macapagal-Arroyo is appeasing and promoting military officers who have been close to Estrada and who have manipulated him to adopt a costly all-out war policy. She is putting herself in the same weak position into which Estrada put himself relative to the reactionary armed forces.

Another glaring manifestation of the reactionary character of the new regime is that Macapagal-Arroyo seeks not only to unite her big comprador-landlord coalition, the United Opposition, but also to unite with the Nationalist People's Coalition of Eduardo Cojuangco and the Kilusang Bagong Lipunan of the Marcoses in preparation for the 2004 presidential elections. The son of Eduardo Cojuangco is running for congress in Pangasinan under the flag of the NPC-Lakas and the Marcoses are running for governor and congress in Ilocos Norte under the banner of KBL-Lakas.

The new regime is not offering any set of economic policies different from those of the Estrada regime. It is for merely readjusting

the "medium-term development plan" of the fallen regime. Macapagal-Arroyo remains true to her record of pushing legislation in pursuit of the line of "free market" globalization, under the Aquino and Ramos regimes.

The Philippine economy is reeling from the bursting of the US "new economy" bubble and the recessionary trend in the US and worldwide. For a whole year already, the value of assets in the US has plummeted from fantastic levels of overvaluation. Four trillion US dollars in value has been wiped out in the stock market. This is four times worse than the 1987 stockmarket meltdown. Nearly half of the US population who have been entrapped in the stock market are financially crushed.

The crisis of overproduction in the US is severe. There is huge overcapacity and excessive inventory, especially in high-tech goods in the face of the greatly diminished purchasing power of US consumers. This aggravates the long-running global crisis of overproduction and financial crisis, especially in the debt-burdened countries that produce nothing for export, except raw materials and semi-manufactures.

The slowdown of the US economy and decade-long stagnation of the Japanese economy translate into dwindling orders for raw materials and consumer semimanufactures from the Philippines and elsewhere in the world. The European market offers no relief in absorbing Philippine exports because it is also adversely affected by the crisis in the US. The current global crisis of the world capitalist system is the worst after World War II.

The sharp reduction in export income is bound to widen the foreign trade deficit. At the same time, foreign credit is drying up while debt service obligations are mounting. The cost of importing producer and consumer goods is soaring relative to export income. The cost of imported fuel will rise repeatedly. As a result of the breakdown of agricultural production, even rice, corn, cooking oil and sugar are now in the import list.

The Macapagal-Arroyo regime is at a loss as to how to raise tax revenues now that local production is deteriorating, mass

*Press Statement*  
*5 December 2000*

## **CONSENSUS OF THE BROAD UNITED FRONT**

**By Jose Maria Sison**  
**NDFP Chief Political Consultant**

A consensus exists within the broad united front of the Left, Middle and anti-Estrada Right to undertake peaceful, massive and militant protest actions nationwide which shall culminate in the sustained encirclement of the presidential palace by at least one million people until Mr. Estrada resigns.

The National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP) has made public assurances that the New People's Army shall not deploy any armed units in the urban areas but shall intensify tactical offensives in the countryside.

The Federation of Retired Commissioned Officers and Enlisted Soldiers (FORCES) has called on active military and police personnel to respect the people's democratic right to assemble and to assist Mr. Estrada to resign.

With the NPA committed to staying in the countryside and the majority of active military and police officers of the reactionary government likewise committed to respecting the people's right to assemble, the people can in the near future take the following converging actions for the purpose of encircling the presidential palace:

1. They can assemble at public parks and churches and then march to the churches close to the palace.
2. Students in the schools near the palace can pour into every street leading to the palace.

power by exercising their democratic right to assemble and express themselves. At the same time, the NPA under the leadership of the CPP is intensifying the revolutionary armed struggle in the countryside for the long-term purpose of overthrowing the ruling system of big compradors and landlords under the control of US imperialism. #

unemployment is spreading and prices are soaring due to the double whammy of scarcity of goods and higher import costs. Like the Estrada regime, it is under orders by the IMF to cut down on deficit spending and impose a heavier tax burden on the people.

It has already announced a policy of austerity. This policy means shifting the burden of the economic crisis to the broad masses of the Filipino people. Workers continue to be subjected to the policy of labor flexibility, deprived of job security, jobs and a decent minimum wage level. The peasants and farm workers will continue to be subjected to worse conditions of feudal and semifeudal exploitation.

Government jobs are being massacred and appropriations for social services (health care, education, public housing, technical and credit assistance for food production and the like) are being cut down. The highest priority in the state budget is for debt service. At the same time, bureaucratic corruption and spending for the military and police equipment and operations are unabated.

As a result of the economic crisis, there is less ground for amicable accommodation among the reactionary forces. The political crisis is certain to increase in turbulence and destabilize the Macapagal-Arroyo regime. This regime is challenged from the outside by a conspicuous opposition of pro-Estrada forces. At the same time, it is also shaken by an unstable combination of rival political groups within the regime.

The Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino of Angara and Estrada's party, the Partido ng Masang Pilipino, are the mainstay of the electoral coalition against the Macapagal-Arroyo regime. The Nationalist People's Coalition of the biggest crony of Marcos and biggest patron of Estrada, Eduardo Cojuangco, has one foot in the opposition coalition and another foot in the ruling coalition.

The ruling coalition consists of the Lakas-NUCD of Ramos and De Venecia and Reporma of Gen. de Villa, together with such junior partners as Aksyong Demokratiko and Promdi. They maneuver against each other for the most lucrative positions in government and speculate that they can either use Macapagal-Arroyo to take a big share in the

2004 presidential elections or discard her after she becomes discredited prior to said elections.

The political base of Macapagal-Arroyo is fractious. She believes that she can reign like a queen over the conflicting factions within her regime, possibly win over some of the factions in the opposition and please the people through glossy but shallow "public relations". She tends to be oblivious of the worsening socioeconomic crisis and the militant mass movement of the patriotic and progressive forces.

The reactionaries regard the current bourgeois elections as an amicable way of allocating power among themselves and as an effective way to divide and rule the masses. But so long as the revolutionary mass movement is rising, the bourgeois elections are a way for the people and the revolutionary forces to recognize the intensifying splits among the reactionaries.

Within the military and police forces, there are increasingly bitter factional conflicts between the Estrada loyalists and the new loyalists of Macapagal-Arroyo. Overtly and covertly, they quarrel over promotions, lucrative assignments, purchase contracts and control over various criminal syndicates. The rottenness of the ruling system is starkly manifested not only by rampant violations of human rights and international humanitarian law by the military and police but also by the direct connections of high military and police officers with criminal syndicates.

Macapagal-Arroyo's obsequious deference to the military betrays her acute fear of them, notwithstanding the fact that since the 1980s the US has had a policy bias for controlling client states through economic and financial levers rather than through military juntas or civilian fascist dictators. Separately, former president Gen. Ramos and Gen. de Villa have convinced her that she must coddle up to the military or else face a coup threat.

Thus, she has made Gen. de Villa her "little president" (executive secretary) and appointed retired generals to other high positions normally held by civilians. In an obvious attempt to curry favor with

*Press Statement*  
*23 November 2000*

## **NO FORMAL ALLIANCE OF CPP WITH GMA**

**By Jose Maria Sison**  
**NDFP Chief Political Consultant**

From my vantage point as chief political consultant of the National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP), I know for a fact that there is at present no formal alliance between the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) and vice president Gloria Macapagal.

The psy-war machinery of Estrada is engaged in cheap and futile red-baiting by harping on an imaginary alliance of the CPP and the vice president. This red baiting follows the script of Oplan "God Save the King" exposed recently by former president Ramos.

If and when vice president Macapagal becomes president, rejects the all-out war policy of Estrada and asks for the resumption of the GRP-NDFP peace negotiations, the NDFP will welcome her approach in the same spirit and manner that it previously talked with representatives of the Ramos and Estrada regimes.

What exists now is a broad united front of legal forces for the ouster or resignation of Estrada. This broad united front includes the leaders and organizations of workers, peasants, women, youth, professionals, religious, business, opposition politicians, retired and active military and police officers who are for the ouster or resignation of Estrada.

All these forces are capable of mobilizing the broad masses of the people in order to remove the Estrada ruling clique from power. It is so much easier to kick out a discredited and isolated president than to overthrow the entire ruling system.

In the meantime, the NDFP is encouraging the broad united front of various legal forces and the entire people to remove Estrada from

The mass actions for the ouster of Estrada will grow in size and strength because the economic crisis is rapidly worsening and because the outrage of the people over Estrada's immorality, corruption and plunder will become more intense.

On the other hand, Estrada will find it dangerous and self-defeating to assemble a crowd even under the pretext of a prayer rally, by ordering government employees, paying lumpen elements and using the bootlicking bosses of the El Shaddai and the INC, in order to conjure the illusion of popular support.

The outrage of the people over their economic suffering and the crimes of Estrada is so intense that if only one section of the crowd starts to chant "Estrada resign!", the rest of the crowd will follow and isolate Estrada and the pro-Estrada organizers on the spot.

Estrada should remember how in Romania the crowd organized in support of the government turned against Nicolae Ceaucescu, after one section of the crowd started to chant against him.

Estrada should also remember that in the final days of Marcos it became impossible for the Marcos regime to rent a crowd for overcoming the gigantic uprising of the people in 1986.

The broad united front of organized forces and the entire people are determined to defeat Estrada through peaceful but massive and militant mass actions. These are adequate for ousting a president, without as yet changing the ruling system.

If Estrada were to use violence against the people and to suppress their democratic right to assemble, he would only aggravate the instability of the system and generate more militant popular resistance. Thereby he would further prove his inability to rule and would accelerate his own downfall.

The broad masses of the people are resolute in rising to oust him. His own imperialist masters and most of his ruling class superiors now consider him far more of a liability than an asset. There is no way for him but to resign or else suffer worse consequences for his crimes. #

the military establishment, she has appointed Gen. Reyes and Gen. Villanueva as secretary of national defense and chief of staff of the armed forces, respectively.

These two generals were favorites of Estrada and were the principal pushers of his all-out war policy. Their promotions run counter to Macapagal-Arroyo's declaration of ending the aforesaid Estrada policy and of desiring peace negotiations with the National Democratic Front of the Philippines and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front.

It is highly probable that after estimating that she has sufficiently "consolidated" her position and after failing to trick the revolutionary movement into capitulation, she will rave for military suppression of the revolutionary movement, as did Aquino in 1987. Gen. Reyes can push her towards a militarist policy and benefit from the failure of that policy while she takes the blame. She seems to be unaware that the US is grooming him as a latter-day version of Gen. Ramos.

Macapagal-Arroyo expects to stay on top of the conflicting political factions and armed factions within her regime and to be able to marshal them for her candidacy in the 2004 presidential elections. But the worsening economic and social crisis and the factionalism within her regime are likely to unsettle her rule in a relatively short period of time.

The political crisis of the ruling system can accelerate under the pressure of the surging revolutionary mass movement of the people as they resist the escalating level of exploitation and oppression. In the same way that Estrada was removed from power, the Macapagal-Arroyo regime is vulnerable to being discredited or overthrown by the people and a broad united front as it offers no solution to the socioeconomic crisis and unleashes military terror against the people and the revolutionary forces.

While still consolidating its position, the regime is well aware that naked force cannot be unleashed against the protesting masses and the armed revolutionary movement without running the risk of being overthrown or of failing to make the mark for reelection as a result of the high political and financial cost of military and police actions.

Thus, the regime has pretended to listen to the demands of the protesting masses. It has also declared the end of the all-out war policy of Estrada and offered to resume peace negotiations with the NDFP and the MILF. The problem of Macapagal-Arroyo is how she can be a "good president" in the midst of socioeconomic problems that she cannot solve and the militarists with which she surrounds herself.

So far, the regime has not offered any program to solve problems outside of the policy dictates of the IMF, World Bank and WTO. While she hypes her desire for peace negotiations, the military and police forces of the regime continue to wage campaigns of suppression against the people and the revolutionary forces.

### ***3. CONTINUING ARMED REVOLUTION FOR NATIONAL LIBERATION AND DEMOCRACY***

It is possible for the legal mass movement and the broad united front to overthrow a president like Marcos or Estrada, together with the entire ruling clique, for tyranny or corruption or both. But it is impossible to overthrow the entire ruling system of big compradors and landlords without armed revolution.

The domestic ruling system has its own brute force with which to suppress the people and the revolutionary forces. But aside from having its own coercive apparatuses for carrying out armed counterrevolution, it is propped up by the US as its imperialist master which supplies it with weapons of destruction and engages in armed intervention and aggression.

It is therefore necessary to build the New People's Army and carry out the people's war in order to destroy the ruling system and achieve the national and social liberation of the people. Under the concrete conditions of the Philippines, where the peasantry is still the majority class, the NPA can pursue the strategic line of protracted people's war. It can accumulate strength and develop in stages over a long period of time in order to encircle the cities until the conditions are ripe for seizing political power in the cities.

***Press Statement***  
***16 November 2000***

## **MASS ACTIONS TO COMPEL ESTRADA RESIGNATION ARE FAR MORE IMPORTANT THAN THE SENATE TRIAL**

**By Jose Maria Sison**  
**NDFP Chief Political Consultant**

I congratulate the broad united front of organized forces and the people for undertaking the nationwide mass actions on November 14, demanding the resignation of Estrada.

These mass actions resoundingly manifest the determination of the people to oust Estrada from power and pave the way for the soonest possible direct encirclement of the presidential palace by at least one million people until he resigns.

The broad mass movement to compel the resignation of Estrada is far more important than the Senate trial because of the current pro-Estrada majority in the Senate.

Estrada himself has publicly expressed the confidence that he can use said pro-Estrada majority as his whitewashing machine. There is also a huge slush fund from the big cronies of Estrada (like Lucio Tan and Eduardo Cojuangco) for buying and ensuring votes of not guilty.

The evidence against Estrada for graft and corruption and related crimes is so overwhelming that for a while the presentation of this evidence will further discredit and isolate him. But the current pro-Estrada Senate majority puts in doubt his conviction.

The broad mass movement to oust Estrada must rise in magnitude and militancy in order to prevent the current pro-Estrada Senate majority from whitewashing his crimes.

Estrada is now conducting a well-financed political offensive aimed at frustrating the broad mass movement and the impeachment trial against him. He expects to stay in power until he can fix the 2001 elections and thus prolong his rule until 2004.

The people and broad united front must enlarge and intensify their mass actions before the end of this year. If Estrada remains in office, they must wage far bigger mass actions in the first quarter of 2001. By then the economic and political crisis of the ruling system shall have become far worse than now.

The patriotic and progressive forces of the Left will gain more time to arouse, organize and mobilize the masses on the basis of self-reliance as well as on the basis of cooperation with other forces in the broad united front in the legal arena of struggle.

At the same time, the forces of the armed revolution are growing in strength and advancing. They are steadily accumulating strength through mass work and tactical offensives. The chronic and worsening crisis of the ruling system under the Estrada regime continuously incites the people to wage armed revolution. #

We can carry forward the people's cause for national liberation and democracy only by carrying out revolutionary armed struggle as the principal form of struggle. At the same time, it is necessary to carry out the legal struggle as the secondary form of struggle to complement the armed struggle. The high potency of this form of struggle has been demonstrated in the overthrow of Marcos and Estrada.

The most important among the legal forms of struggle is the mass movement. This daily takes up important issues and makes demands. At certain times, it can mobilize people to such an extent as to be able to overthrow a ruling clique. In the future, it can directly combine with the NPA in a strategic offensive to topple whoever is the president and the entire ruling system.

The reactionaries are now involved in an electoral contest. They are divided between the ruling coalition called People Power Coalition and the opposition coalition calling itself Puwersa ng Masa. They seem to agree that the overthrow of Estrada will be smoothed over by the elections. But in fact, the contradictions among the reactionaries will sharpen because of the present conditions of worsening crisis and rising revolutionary mass movement.

The broad masses of the people demand the punishment of Estrada for his crimes of plunder and corruption. But some factions in the new regime wish to let him get off the hook through a bungling of the prosecution or by letting him flee. If he remains unpunished, the regime will pay a heavy political price and will face serious consequences in terms of popular outrage and fragmentation of the ruling coalition.

A progressive party like Bayan Muna has emerged to engage in the electoral form of struggle by seeking only three congressional seats in the party list elections and supporting progressive candidates for other positions. Considering the high prestige that it has gained in the mass movement to overthrow Estrada, Bayan Muna candidates are expected to win easily. But the reactionaries can in so many ways nullify the votes cast for it. In this regard, they should not be underestimated.

Both friends and enemies have made the observation that the mass base of the revolutionary movement would be exposed down to the precinct level through votes cast for Bayan Muna. Though a progressive electoral party, Bayan Muna is not the revolutionary party of the proletariat. It has its own way of garnering votes and engaging in alliances. Thus, its electoral mass base extends well beyond the revolutionary mass base.

Assuming that progressive candidates would be elected to various positions in the reactionary government in the near and long future, the reactionaries will not allow them to replace the unjust ruling system with a just and progressive one. At best, progressive officials would be able to expose the rottenness of the ruling system and espouse the demands of the people.

The National Democratic Front of the Philippines has agreed with the Government of the Republic of the Philippines to resume the peace negotiations. These constitute another legal form of struggle even as they are directly related to the armed struggle. On an equal political and legal footing, the two negotiating panels face each other across the negotiating table and try to address the roots of the armed conflict and arrive at agreements.

The NDFP negotiating panel can seriously negotiate and try to draw benefits for the people only as it is firm on revolutionary principles and flexible in policy and the revolutionary armed struggle is growing in strength and advancing. At any rate, there should be no illusion whatsoever that peace negotiations are the sole or main way of arriving at a just and lasting peace.

The human rights organizations, churches and the people at large seek the release of political prisoners. But the militarists in the new regime are blocking or delaying the release of political prisoners and are in fact intensifying the military campaigns of suppression nationwide.

Fouling the atmosphere for peace negotiations, they continue to perpetrate human rights violations on a wide scale by undertaking a

*Press Statement*  
*13 November 2000*

## **THE PEOPLE AND THE BROAD UNITED FRONT MUST WAGE FAR BIGGER MASS ACTIONS**

**By Jose Maria Sison**  
**NDFP Chief Political Consultant**

The November 11 pro-Estrada "prayer rally" of 800,000 (not one or two million, as claimed by drumbeaters) was mainly staged by Estrada, El Shaddai and INC to put a veil of false sanctity on the immorality and corruption of Estrada and to counter the EDSA shrine rally.

In terms of quantity, the pro-Estrada pseudoreligious show was a big failure if we consider the huge amount of private and public money that was used. In terms of quality, it came out as a desperate and futile effort to obscure the immoral and criminal responsibilities of Estrada.

Nonetheless, the people and the broad united front of forces that wish to oust Mr. Estrada from power or compel him to resign are challenged to mobilize far bigger mass actions. In a certain sense, Cardinal Sin and the CBCP are the most challenged by the emperor worship propagated by the El Shaddai and the INC.

I hope that the nationwide mass protests on November 14 and the focal ones in the national capital region will bring to a new and higher level the movement to oust Estrada and will bring us closer to the ultimate encirclement of the presidential palace by at least one million people.

Afraid of being ousted before the end of the year, Estrada is clearly beginning to bring out what he can do with El Shaddai-INC support and the 10 billion-peso slush fund put up by Lucio Tan and Eduardo Cojuangco for bribing congressmen and senators and financing rallies, broadcasts and other forms of pro-Estrada propaganda.

Macapagal will not be immune to the consequences of the economic and political crisis of the ruling system. She can easily go the ignominious way of Estrada if she fails to satisfy the basic demands of the people. By becoming president, she assumes responsibilities for which she would be accountable to the people and to the revolutionary movement. #

policy of murder, torture, looting, arson, forced mass evacuations and seizing suspected revolutionaries and noncombatants as political prisoners. They release a few political prisoners and then take more.

After resumption in a neutral foreign venue, the peace negotiations will certainly go through twists and turns. That is because the GRP will always try to win across the table what it cannot in the battlefield. Off and on, the GRP will accuse the NDFP of using the peace negotiations to seek the status of belligerency. In fact the GRP uses the peace negotiations in a vile and vain attempt to push the NDFP into a position of capitulation and self-criminalization and attain the pacification of the revolutionary people and forces.

The most rabid among the reactionaries try vainly to demean us by claiming that we are insurgents rather than belligerents under the laws of war. They claim that we are merely a domestic police problem and that we must submit ourselves to surrender negotiations in a Philippine venue under the control and surveillance of the reactionary government, instead of peace negotiations in a neutral foreign venue.

We must tell these rabid reactionaries that they cannot dictate to us the framework and terms of peace negotiations. The revolutionary forces and the people have grown in strength by delivering lethal blows not just to police forces but to regular armed forces of the reactionary government.

We have acquired the status of belligerency under international law by waging revolutionary armed struggle, building organs of political power, organizing the people and defending our own territory. It is by doing all these and achieving greater victories in people's war that we shall gain wide international recognition of our status of belligerency and ultimately the recognition of the people's democratic government.

There are ways other than peace negotiations by which the people's democratic government can gain diplomatic recognition. The NDFP continuously carries out proto-diplomatic and diplomatic work and establishes and develops relations of mutual benefit and cooperation with other governments. It can make agreements with foreign

governments for the protection and benefit of their citizens who visit or stay in the territory of the people's democratic government.

Our revolutionary government proves its status of belligerency whenever the people's army captures and detains prisoners of war for various lengths of time and accords them humane treatment under the Geneva Conventions and Protocol I. Thus, we comply with the NDFP's Declaration of Undertaking to Apply the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and Protocol I of 1977. This document has been deposited with the Swiss Federal Council since July 15, 1996.

We fight in the battlefield while our negotiators talk across the table. Otherwise, the enemy will find no need for peace negotiations if the revolutionary armed struggle weakens or ceases. The achievements of our people's war and the desperate situation of the enemy have compelled the latter to discuss the roots of the armed conflict and negotiate possible basic reforms.

As the NDFP and GRP resume their negotiations, all previous agreements are revived. The most important of these agreements are: The Hague Joint Declaration, the Joint Agreement on Safety and Immunity Guarantees (JASIG), the Formation, Sequence and Operationalization of the Reciprocal Working Committees and the Comprehensive Agreement on Respect for Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law (CARHRIHL).

The CARHRIHL is the first substantive agreement in accordance with the 4-point agenda of the peace negotiations. At the resumption of the peace negotiations, the negotiations on social and economic reforms shall be opened. We shall present the economic, social and cultural rights and demands of the people.

All Red commanders and fighters should understand the principled position of the NDFP in the peace negotiations and should prevent the spread of any false illusion, which undermines our revolutionary consciousness and fighting morale. They should continue their revolutionary work among the masses and carry out their fighting tasks.

Macapagal will start her presidency from a weak and vulnerable position if she condones the crimes of Estrada in exchange for his resignation. Moreover, she will be in the morass of a bankrupt government that has to undertake a program of austerity at the expense of the people.

As president, Macapagal can easily become the people's enemy overnight because the so-called alternative national agenda of her "united opposition" does not reflect the broad united front against Estrada and does not address the basic demands of the people for national liberation and democracy. Until now, we have not heard from Macapagal any firm assurance that her policies will be any different from those of Estrada.

She knows very well that Bayan, KMU, KMP, Gabriela, Anakbayan, LFS, CEGP, Karapatan and other patriotic and progressive forces are actively in the broad united front for the removal of Estrada from power. But she has publicly avoided referring to any policy change that would please them.

So far, she has also failed to mention anything agreeable to the National Democratic Front of the Philippines, like justice and indemnification for the victims of human rights violations, the release of political prisoners and the possible resumption of peace negotiations with the NDFP in accordance with The Hague Joint Declaration.

Macapagal succeeds to the presidency while the ruling system of big compradors and landlords continues to be crisis-ridden and unstable. She will not fare any better than Estrada by being more articulate than he in pushing the policies of the IMF, World Bank and WTO and probably using cold war language against the mass movement of workers and peasants.

"Free trade" globalization, the fancy term for neocolonialism and neoliberalism, will make any puppet president weak and isolated because it ceaselessly worsens the social and economic crisis and unleashes terrible suffering on the people. The severe contradictions among the reactionaries will continue.

*Press Statement*  
*5 November 2000*

## **COMMENT ON THE IMPENDING FALL OF ESTRADA AND THE RISE OF MACAPAGAL**

**by Jose Maria Sison**  
**NDFP Chief Political Consultant**

Estrada is already finished, as a consequence of the disintegration of the LAMP coalition in the House of Representatives and the Senate. The numbers in Congress have drastically changed against him, so much so that he must resign soon.

The top brass of the Armed Forces of the Philippines is already under orders from the Pentagon and in particular the Hawaii-based US CINCPAC to tell Estrada that it is better for him to resign than to resist the popular movement against him.

The only choice left for him is to head off a Senate trial, strike a deal with his vice-president for some amount of protection and resign ala Nixon or to protract the Senate trial as long as possible and face worse consequences to himself.

To ensure Estrada's resignation soon, it is still necessary to intensify the nationwide mass protests, possibly culminating in the direct encirclement of the presidential palace by one million people. On his part, Estrada should realize by now that every day that he delays his resignation is a day closer to the concentration of the outraged masses around his palace.

While he clings to the presidential chair, Estrada remains the target of the concentrated fire of the broad united front and the people. A slackening of the mass protests demanding his removal from power would give him some leeway for maneuver.

We must maintain vigilance against the counterrevolutionary dual tactics of the Macapagal-Arroyo regime. This consists of talking about peace and intensifying military campaigns of suppression. Let us not forget that in less than one month after coming to power, the new puppet president called on the military and police to eliminate or reduce the revolutionary forces.

The military and police officers who have pushed and carried out the national campaigns of suppression under the puppet regimes of Marcos, (Oplan Mamamayan), Aquino (Lambat Bitag), Ramos (Lambat Bitag) and Estrada (Oplan Makabayan) are still ferociously assaulting the people and the revolutionary forces.

We must counteract the enemy's nationwide and localized campaigns of suppression, its use of "civic action" pretenses, large-, medium- and small-unit operations and such new gadgets as night vision goggles, miniature communications equipment and global positioning system. We should not simply react to these but take the initiative by launching tactical offensives against weak points of the enemy.

We can increase our armed strength and raise the level of our military tactics and technique self-reliantly by seizing weapons and other instruments from the hands of the enemy forces. Some of our commando and special units have already acquired high-tech equipment to make operations more efficient than before. We must follow strictly the security guidelines on the use of computers, cellphones and other traceable equipment.

In the main, let us carry out basic tactical offensives of varying sizes in order to increase our armed strength. We should wage only those battles that we are sure of winning by mustering superior strength and using the element of surprise against the relatively weak points of the enemy forces.

Any series of small victories in our more than 100 guerrilla fronts amounts to a great victory nationwide. We can gain at least 1200 rifles per month or 14,400 rifles per year if on the average every guerrilla

front command succeeds in seizing even only ten rifles from the enemy forces every month. Moreover, the rate of increasing our weaponry is cumulative as we base ourselves on the increased number of weapons at a given time.

The NPA can be flexible in the use of various sizes of units, like teams, squads, platoons, half companies or companies, in order to carry out tactical offensives, like ambushes, raids and arrest operations. The enemy forces always have weak points, which we can either discover or create by inducing them to commit mistakes.

Stationary or mobile small units of the reactionary armed forces, police, CAFGU, hostile private security agencies and criminal gangs are vulnerable. Even when we are confronted by hard points, like large military encampments or well-entrenched detachments, we can effectively act against these by waiting for a small part of the enemy force to come out of its camp and annihilating it at a distance from the camp. We can also harass the camp with weapons and tactics that do not strain our resources.

We can employ sniper fire, gasoline spray apparatuses, improvised bazookas, rocket propelled grenades, land mines and cheaply made explosives against vital enemy military installations. We can undertake night operations to give the enemy forces sleepless nights. We can capture from the enemy forces night vision goggles and other high-tech gadgets, including the trackers for detecting use of these, in order to turn the use of these gadgets against them.

We can reduce the capability of the enemy forces to make forward deployment against us or send out scout ranger teams or commandoes against us by seizing the initiative against their weak points and by inducing them to make mistakes. The enemy's offensive capabilities against us have certain limitations. These are due to the bankruptcy of the reactionary government, the overextension and limitedness of troop strength relative to our mass base, the ceaseless dilemma between concentration and dispersal, the growing factionalism among military and police officers and the constant need to secure the urban centers of power.

coordinated with thronging the streets around the palace. Such actions include the following:

1. Owners can leave their motor vehicles at various choke points, paralyze the movement of military and police vehicles and allow the people to march from various points of Metro Manila to the vicinity of the palace.
2. In front of the barricades set up by the military and police loyalists of Estrada, the religious organizations, women's organizations and prominent political leaders can be at the head of the demonstrators in order to discourage Estrada from ordering any physical attack.
3. Active and retired military and police officers can make calls to the military and police forces to respect the democratic right of the people to undertake the gigantic mass action and to ignore any order of Estrada to attack the people.

Without the direct encirclement of the presidential palace by the people, Estrada will continue to ignore or rebuff demands for his resignation. He will tough it out, kill the impeachment process on a technicality and prolong his stay in power. However, the armed revolutionary movement of the Filipino people and the Bangsamoro will gain precious time for delivering more powerful blows on the thoroughly isolated regime, particularly its troops in the countryside. #

*Press Statement*  
*1 November 2000*

## **NATIONWIDE MASS PROTESTS MUST LEAD TO DIRECT ENCIRCLEMENT OF PALACE**

**By Jose Maria Sison**  
**NDFP Chief Political Consultant**

Estrada is dying politically but is not yet dead. The final death blow is still to be delivered. If this cannot be delivered before the end of the year, a crippled Estrada will stagger on until next year, aggravating the ruin of the economy and stirring up more political turmoil.

It is not enough to hope for the LAMP allies of Estrada to abandon him and give way to impeachment in the Lower House and conviction in the Senate. It is also not enough to hold mass protests away from the presidential palace.

If Estrada is to be removed from power before the end of the year, the current nationwide buildup of mass protest actions must lead to a climax, which is the direct encirclement of the presidential palace before the start of the Christmas holidays.

All streets leading to the palace can and must be filled up by at least one million people, who are ready to camp out until Estrada announces his resignation or indefinite leave of absence.

Such a demonstration of mass strength is necessary in order to put to an end Estrada's arrogant presumption that he has the license until 2004 to ride roughshod over the Filipino people and intensify their oppression and exploitation for the benefit of his foreign masters, his multiple families and his cronies.

To paralyze and render inutile any order of Estrada to his military and police loyalists to attack the people, a number of actions must be

In the cities, the military and police forces of the reactionary government wrangle over political alignments and over connections with criminal syndicates. They are at each other's throat. They would be in a more complicated situation after we revive the armed city partisan units. However, these must undertake punitive actions at a well-calculated rate in order to let the military and police factions run ahead in their internal struggles and to avoid prejudicing the development of the legal democratic mass movement.

We must carry out highly selective special tactical offensives by armed city partisans and special commando units in order to punish the worst of plunderers and human rights violators and traitors who have blood debts. If we can arrest these enemies of the people, we should do so in order to investigate, prosecute and try them. But when these are armed and dangerous or these resist arrest, we must be ready to give battle and use the necessary amount of force.

We must seize every moment to strengthen the New People's Army and advance the people's war. We must exert greater efforts to further strengthen the Party, the people's army, the united front formations, the organs of political power and the mass organizations. We must win ever greater victories in expanding and consolidating the mass base and all revolutionary forces. The people are our inexhaustible source of strength.

We can increase the number and frequency of our tactical guerrilla offensives and raise the level of our revolutionary armed struggle only by continuously widening and deepening our mass base. We must have the mass base to facilitate our tactical offensives, to cover our retreat after every tactical offensive, to lure the enemy forces in deep to their rural graveyard and keep them blind and deaf for all intents and purposes.

We must continuously build our mass base in order to prevent the development of a purely military situation between our small armed units and the larger enemy forces. As in the past, before the Second Great Rectification Movement, we would be in a difficult and losing position if we allowed the purely military viewpoint to ride high. We

must maintain a good balance of carrying out guerrilla tactical offensives and doing our revolutionary mass work.

The local organs of political power must be built steadily in ever expanding areas of our country. So must the mass organizations of workers, peasants, fishermen, women, youth, cultural activists and children that are the base for these organs of democratic political power. The working committees for mass organizing, education, land reform, production, defense, health, culture and arbitration must be formed to assist the organs of political power directly.

In consolidation work, it is absolutely necessary to build the mass organizations and form the working committees in order to let the masses solve their problems, empower themselves and lift themselves up socially. Thus, the NPA has a growing source of Red fighters, a powerful network of information and resources for the people's war. From the ranks of the most advanced activists, Party members must be recruited and local Party branches must be built promptly.

#### ***4. EXCELLENT CONDITIONS FOR WAGING PEOPLE'S WAR***

The conditions are excellent for waging the new-democratic revolution through protracted people's war in the Philippines. The crisis of the world capitalist system and that of the domestic ruling system are daily worsening.

So-called free market globalization has proven to be utterly bankrupt. It has brought about the most rapacious ways of exploiting and oppressing the people in the underdeveloped countries as well as in the imperialist countries. It has devastated mainly the underdeveloped countries and has made the puppet states weak and vulnerable to violent contradictions among the reactionaries as well as to revolutionary armed resistance by the people.

The new world disorder is intensifying. The contradictions between the imperialist powers and the people in the client states, among the imperialist powers and between the big bourgeoisie and the proletariat are intensifying. Imperialist wars of aggression and violence among the

squeeze and political pressure rather than military coups in disposing of its discredited puppet presidents.

The thieving, gambling and carousing days of Estrada at public expense are numbered, as the people rise up and even his imperialist masters are compelled to dump him. #

works against him. Such a call can encourage some senators and congressmen to disengage from their alliance with Estrada. Indeed, it is necessary to prevent Estrada from being in a position to control the impeachment process.

The people are eager to get rid of Estrada. In this connection, the call for snap election by senators Roco and Enrile is deemed as distracting. But even such a call implies a repudiation of Estrada. Other senators and congressmen can echo it to distance themselves from Estrada.

In a roundabout way, by accusing former president Ramos of plotting to undertake arson and bombings to destabilize the regime, Estrada has threatened to disrupt the mass protests and attack the people. But the threat is futile and self-defeating because arson and bombings by Gen. Lacson and Calimlim and their agents will only displease his imperialist masters, especially foreign investors.

High-ranking and police officers are already receiving definite signals from the US that it is time for Estrada to go. The troops and policemen are becoming restive from the effects of the economic and financial crisis on their pay checks. When national security adviser General Aguirre raves that the troops will shed blood for Estrada, he forgets how the troops deserted Marcos in 1986 and Suharto of Indonesia recently.

Neither a bloodbath occurred against the people in the bid of Marcos or Suharto to retain power nor a successful military coup to depose them was undertaken. It sufficed that the military and police officers refused to follow orders of the incumbent president to stop the mass protest actions with all-out brute force by gunfire.

Once the mass protest actions acquire gigantic proportions as in the 1983-86 period, the imperialist masters of Estrada will hasten his disposal, not by a military coup but by further tightening the credit squeeze and pushing retired and active generals to withdraw their support for him and speak up against him. Since the 1980's, the US in its "democracy" mythmaking has had a preference for the credit

reactionaries are breaking out. Under these conditions, proletarian revolutionaries can take the initiative to prepare and wage revolutionary armed struggle.

The disintegration of Soviet social-imperialism, the fall of revisionist regimes and the rise of the most criminal forms of capitalism in all countries where socialism has been betrayed are all part and parcel of the worsening crisis of the world capitalist system. The conditions for the reemergence of revolutionary movements for national liberation and socialism are laid with utmost clarity against imperialism, revisionism and reaction.

Through the betrayal of socialism, the revisionist ruling cliques have enabled US imperialism to win the Cold War and emerge as the sole superpower. Thus, US imperialism has been able to escalate oppression and exploitation of the proletariat and people. However, this has aggravated and deepened the crisis of the world capitalist system and has resulted in wars of aggression. Now, the stage is set for the resurgence of the world proletarian revolution and broad anti-imperialist movement on an unprecedented scale.

The new US administration of George W. Bush wishes to focus its aggressive policy on Asia and the Pacific to put further under control China, Japan and the rest of Asia, a vast region where most of humanity and most of the social wealth are. The US has been able to impose its neocolonial and neoliberal economic and financial policies on the client states and further wants them to back down from their political assertions of national sovereignty and territorial integrity.

Emboldened by the disintegration of the Soviet Union and the weakness of Russia, the US and its NATO allies have started a chain of aggressive wars in the European continent and in the Middle East in connection with NATO expansion and with the sourcing and routing of oil supply. The troubles that they have begun to stir up in Europe are bound to become worse. The imperialist powers themselves are likely to rearrange and upset the current balance of their alliance. At the same time, the proletariat and people can revive their revolutionary struggle.

The revolutionary forces and people in Asia can take advantage of the overextension of US imperialism and its long-term weaknesses arising from its acts of bullying, intervention and aggression, the costliness of its high-tech weaponry, its Vietnam war syndrome or its obsession with the exit strategy for its aggressor troops and its admitted fear of protracted people's war.

In our region, we support all struggles for national sovereignty and territorial integrity against US and Japanese imperialism. We support all revolutionary movements for national liberation, democracy and socialism against imperialism and local reaction. We hope that in due time the armed revolutionary struggles of the peoples in Southeast Asia will resurge.

We support the struggle of China and the Chinese people for the return of Taiwan to its motherland, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and entire Korean people for the reunification of Korea and the Japanese people against US and Japanese monopoly capitalism, US-Japan security treaty and the US military bases.

The world proletarian revolution and the broad anti-imperialist movement are steadily advancing. We strive to contribute our best to the revolutionary advance of the proletariat and people of the world by carrying out the new-democratic revolution and by aiming consequently to undertake the socialist revolution. #

indication of this development is the IMF's withdrawal of the "seal of good housekeeping" from the regime.

As a consequence, the Estrada regime cannot access foreign loans and float bonds abroad. The Standard and Poor's ratings have gone negative for the regime. There is already a credit squeeze on it.

The IMF, World Bank, Japan Bank for International Cooperation and the Asian Development Bank all agree that the regime cannot comply with the limit on deficit-spending because of its unbridled corruption.

The cronies and multiple families of Estrada are wantonly involved in overpriced contracts with the government, underpriced sale of state assets, tax evasion, technical smuggling, cutting into pork barrel funds and raiding social insurance, housing and other public funds. Moreover, the all-out war policy of Estrada is draining a huge amount of resources.

Estrada has the illusion that if the mass protests were stopped and if he would have to deal only with an impeachment process he would be able to control and end the process to his advantage by accelerating the release of the presidential pork barrel to the congressmen and further running afoul of the IMF limit on deficit-spending.

But as soon as the money is released, the congressmen can easily lose their "loyalty" to Estrada. They know that money for them will become scarce because of IMF restrictions and the falling peso. They can also start to resent the insulting presumption of the supercorrupt Estrada that they are corrupt and that he is entitled to a monopoly of the pork barrel because he has a monopoly of honesty.

The impeachment process has the minimum potential of ventilating the evils of the regime for several months as well as the maximum potential of stimulating the defection of Estrada's allies in Congress who might be swayed by mounting mass protests of the people or by the signals of the US and the IMF that it is time to drop Estrada.

Even former president Aquino's call for Estrada to take a leave of absence to prevent him from interfering in the impeachment process,

*Press Statement*  
*22 October 2000*

## **ESTRADA'S DAYS ARE NUMBERED**

**By Jose Maria Sison**  
**NDFP Chief Political Consultant**

Estrada has to resign in order to assuage the people's outrage and avoid worse consequences to himself for disgracing the nation. Alternatively, as suggested by Mrs. Aquino, he may take an indefinite leave of absence because he is morally, politically, mentally and physically sick.

Everyday that he remains in power, the economic and political crisis of the ruling system worsens and the people and the broad united front of organized forces intensify their efforts to remove him from power.

There is a general understanding among the organized masses, religious institutions, business and professional groups, opposition parties and government personnel that a crescendo of militant mass protests must be undertaken nationwide in order to compel Mr. Estrada to resign.

The firm consensus is that Estrada must be removed from power because of his flagrant immorality, corruption, cronyism, mismanagement and plunder of the economy, all-out war policy and human rights violations.

Estrada has served his imperialist masters well by pushing the ratification of the Visiting Forces Agreement, by further "liberalizing" the economy for the benefit of the multinational banks and firms and intensifying the oppression and exploitation of the people, especially the workers and peasants.

But he has become such a big liability to the ruling system that even his imperialist masters are already junking him. An important

## **STATEMENT OF THE CPP ON THE VICTORIOUS EDSA UPRISING AGAINST THE ESTRADA REGIME**

**Central Committee**  
**Communist Party of the Philippines**  
**January 20, 2001**

The Communist Party of the Philippines ardently salutes the brilliant victory of the people's uprising that ousted the much-despised and rotten Estrada regime. More than anything, it is the people's heroism that swiftly removed Estrada from Malacañang.

EDSA 2, like EDSA 1, is a victorious people's struggle that is worthy of praise. Nonetheless, the people strongly desire that there be no more reprises of their frustration over the changes promised by EDSA 1.

The masses who fearlessly advanced to topple Estrada will not be satisfied with mere pretenses and tokenisms. It is completely within their rights to demand that the Macapagal-Arroyo government seriously uphold national and social change.

It is the Macapagal-Arroyo government's responsibility to put the people's agenda at the center of its governance, especially those changes that the extremely impoverished and oppressed masses have long been fighting for. Among these are the following:

1. Immediate prosecution of Estrada and his cronies for plunder and other crimes. Recovery of their ill-gotten wealth in order to fund programs that are genuinely for the poor.
2. Thoroughgoing and sincere campaign against graft and corruption in government.

3. Immediate remedies and long-term improvement of employment, wages, housing and social services for the poor in the cities and countryside.
4. Genuine land reform for the peasant masses.
5. Repeal of the policies of denationalization, deregulation, liberalization, contractualization, casualization and other forms of enslavement resulting from imperialist globalization.
6. Repudiation of militarization, militarism and total war. Sincere pursuit of peace talks between the GRP and the NDFP, which were sabotaged by the Estrada regime.
7. Justice for victims of militarization, militarism and total war. Release of all political prisoners.
8. Abrogation of the Visiting Forces Agreement and opposition to US intervention in the country's internal affairs.

Despite Estrada's ouster, the chronic socio-economic crisis of the semicolonial and semifeudal ruling system continues. It is this crisis, aside from the extreme avarice and arrogance of the Estrada faction, that is behind the crisis and overthrow of Estrada after a mere two and a half years.

The Communist Party and New People's Army continue, and are further determined, to advance the people's democratic revolution and people's war until total victory. Alongside, we are likewise further determined to unite and cooperate with all democratic, progressive and sincere forces, groups and elements to fight for the Filipino people's national and democratic welfare.

***Long live the heroic Filipino people!***

***Continue the struggle until genuine democracy, national freedom and progress are achieved!***

***Advance the people's democratic revolution to total victory!***

Tan, Danding Cojuangco, the Marcoses, Dante Ang, Atong Ang, Mark Jimenez and Mike Velarde (shaman and real estate racketeer).

The people and the united front of forces that are committed to removing Estrada from power must intensify all their efforts and apply all possible methods of further isolating him, thwarting all his maneuvers and compelling him to step down from office.

We expect the mass actions to mount on a nationwide scale in order to hold him accountable for his puppetry, corruption, the economic disaster and human rights violations. It is feasible to carry out protest actions that expose the gross incapability of the regime to rule.

We expect that Mr. Estrada would further lose support from his allies in Congress, business circles, the bureaucracy, the military and police, mass media and religious organizations.

We expect the revolutionary forces of the Filipino people and Bangsamoro to intensify their armed struggle for national liberation and democracy and prove the futility of Estrada's all-out war policy. As they have decided, they can carry out tactical offensives to prove the gross incapability of Estrada to rule. #

*Press Statement*  
*13 October 2000*

## **EXTREME GREED AND FLAGRANT IMMORALITY HAVE UNDONE ESTRADA**

**by Jose Maria Sison**  
**NDFP Chief Political Consultant**

Extreme greed and flagrant immorality have undone Mr. Estrada. Thanks to the insider expose made by Chavit Singson, Estrada is in the most shameful corner in the country.

Previously, he seemed to be able to get away with murder and with the biggest cases of corruption, in connivance with his cronies. But having so wantonly overextended himself in corrupt practices, he was bound to become completely exposed as a criminal.

Everyday that he clings to power, Estrada goads the people to rise up and those around him begin to consider association with him a grave liability and an intolerable shame.

Who would like to remain associated with a ruler now repudiated and detested by the people for doing nothing but thieving, carousing and grandstanding? Thus, Vice-president Gloria Macapagal has resigned from his cabinet. His allies in both houses of Congress now have to decide to distance themselves from him or else go down with him in ignominy.

The only way for the Mafia Godfather of the Philippines to avert impeachment or the people's uprising is to resign. He should heed the call of Cardinal Sin.

But Mr. Estrada might be unable to read the handwriting on the wall because he is still drunk with power and alcohol. He is also being urged to stay on by daytime president Ronnie Zamora and crooks like Lucio

*Press Statement*  
*20 September 2000*

## **IN SOLIDARITY WITH MASS PROTESTS FOR THE OUSTER OF ESTRADA REGIME**

**By Jose Maria Sison**  
**NDFP Chief Political Consultant**

September 21, 1972 is once more remembered as the official date for the martial rule that was imposed on the Filipino people by the US-instigated Marcos fascist dictatorship. It is time for the people to make a new resolve to combat state terrorism and the plunder of the economy by US imperialism and the local reactionaries.

Since the fall of Marcos in 1986, the anti-Marcos reactionaries had celebrated from year to year the so-called restoration of democracy until the direct political and blood heirs of Marcos brazenly returned to power in 1998 with the Estrada ruling clique.

In fact, the toiling masses of workers and peasants and even the middle social strata have continuously suffered rising levels of oppression and exploitation. Defenders of the ruling system have deliberately downplayed human rights violations to conjure the image of democracy and misrepresent the anti-authoritarian uprising of 1986 as a revolution.

Now, as they are confronted by the US-directed Estrada regime, the broad masses of the people are driven to wage all militant forms of struggle by the unbridled puppetry, cruelty, corruption and mendacity reminiscent of the Marcos fascist regime. There is once more a broad united front of patriotic and progressive forces seeking the ouster of the Estrada ruling clique. All actions are being undertaken to isolate, weaken and destroy the regime.

I am in solidarity with the protest mass actions being undertaken by the Catholic and Protestant churches, Islamic groups, Kairos, PCPR,

BAYAN, KMU, KMP, Gabriela, Anakbayan and other democratic organizations and personages against corruption, cronyism, economic mismanagement and the all-out war policy of the regime.

The US-directed Estrada regime is trying to deflect attention from these mass protest actions by claiming to go after the Abu Sayyaf but in fact it is bombarding Moro communities and destroying the lives and property of ordinary people. The regime and its military forces are proving to be far worse criminals than the Abu Sayyaf by killing and injuring far more people and forcing their evacuation.

The Abu Sayyaf is despicable for kidnapping civilians for ransom. But far more abominable, far more damaging and far more humiliating to the people is the reign of greed and terror of the multinational firms and banks, Estrada himself and his six families, the Marcoses, Lucio Tan and Eduardo Cojuangco. These are far bigger monsters.

The broad masses of the people must be tenacious in fighting against the Estrada puppet regime. Only by fighting for their national and democratic rights can they have the hope and accumulate the strength not only to oust the Estrada regime from power but also to end the entire ruling system and install a new system of complete independence, democracy, social justice and progress.

Significant advances have been achieved in the new-democratic revolution through protracted people's war. These include the emergence of more than one hundred guerrilla fronts and an organized revolutionary mass base in the millions. The tactical offensives of the people's army have reverberated throughout the country and the world. The revolutionary alliance of the NDFP and MILF is also advancing.

The US-controlled ruling system of big compradors and landlords is rotten to the core. Neocolonialism, especially under the neoliberal terms of imperialist globalization, has aggravated and deepened semicolonial and semifeudal conditions. The socioeconomic and political crisis is unleashing the most intolerable forms of oppression and exploitation and is goading the broad masses of the people to wage armed revolution. #

*Press Statement*  
*12 October 2000*

## **CARDINAL SIN'S CALL IS AN IMPORTANT SIGNAL FOR BROADEST POSSIBLE UNITED FRONT AGAINST ESTRADA**

**By Jose Maria Sison**  
**NDFP Chief Political Consultant**

I welcome and support Cardinal Sin's call for the resignation of Estrada. This is an important signal for rallying the broadest possible united front to oust Estrada from his office.

All efforts must be exerted to mobilize the masses to carry out militant actions all over the country until Estrada resigns or is toppled. Every second, every minute and every day must be seized for mobilizing the people.

As in the case of Marcos, Estrada can be ousted by the militant actions of the masses. He is thoroughly isolated and ripe for ouster. As the mass actions acquire gigantic proportions, his political subalterns, the military and police will abandon him.

The economy is rapidly sinking. The middle rank officers and ordinary troops and policemen have begun to grumble and openly curse Estrada for his greed and the dwindling value of their meager pay.

The broad masses of the people are ready to act because they have long been outraged by the flagrant corruption of his regime, particularly of himself, his several families and cronies. #