

ANG

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PINAPATNUBAYAN NG
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CENTRAL LUZON HOLDS SUCCESSFUL REGIONAL PARTY CONFERENCE

The Party and the people's army gained significant victory in Central Luzon with the recent holding of the Regional Party Conference at which a new Regional Party Committee was elected and a three-year program was approved.

Following is the complete text of the communique that was issued at the end of the Conference:

The Regional Conference of the Communist Party of the Philippines in Central Luzon was held last June 1977. Leading Party cadres from the various territorial organs, regional departments and bureaus, and Party organs within the people's army in the subregional and district guerrilla zones attended the Conference. The Central Committee, the Party committees of two adjacent regions, and two national organs under the Central Committee sent their representatives.

The historic meeting was formally opened by Comrade Amado Guerrero, chairman of the Communist Party of the Philippines.

In his speech, he cited the glorious revolutionary history of the region, where the Party was reestablished and the New People's Army founded, and where the Party first took root among the peasant masses.

"It was here that the Party gained experience and the necessities for expanding armed struggle to other regions," he said. "Even when we had only one guerrilla zone in Central Luzon, the region already played a very big role not only in expanding our revolutionary work in the countryside but also in developing the Party's national propaganda and strengthening the urban mass struggle."

Even as the Party and the people's army have overcome the difficulties in advancing the revolutionary movement, Comrade Amado Guerrero issued the call:

"Now that we are stronger than at any time in the past, let us not relax our enthusiasm, perseverance and vigilance. To grow even stronger, we must keep to the style of closely uniting with the masses, criticism and self-criticism, and hard work and simple living."

The delegates and representatives of other Party organs engaged in a lively exchange of ideas in summing up nine years of revolutionary struggle in the region under the leadership of the reestablished Communist Party of the Philippines, assessing present conditions of society and of the revolutionary forces, and defining the tasks to be fulfilled.

Marxism-Leninism-Mao Tse-tung Thought was the beacon light for the Conference in the study of experience, examination of specific questions or problems, and drawing up of plans and decisions. The document "Our Urgent Tasks", issued by the Third Plenum of the Central Committee, concretely and effectively defined the present conditions of our revolutionary work, as well as the immediate tasks and trends of revolution in the coming years.

The Conference arrived at a deeper understanding and a firmer grasp of the universal truth of Marxism-Leninism-Mao Tse-tung Thought and its living application in the Philippine revolution. Our experience has shown that a poor grasp of, or deviation from, fundamental proletarian principles results in failure, while a firm and creative grasp of the basic principles of Marxism-Leninism-Mao Tse-tung Thought by the Party, the people's army and the organized masses ensures the advance of the revolution.

Objective conditions are excellent, both inside and outside the country, for the advance and victory of the people's revolutionary struggle. Internally, the economic crisis will continue and worsen in the years to come. The ruling classes are imposing heavier burdens on the people. While the worker and peasant masses sink deeper into poverty and the petty bourgeoisie and national bourgeoisie are going bankrupt, the foreign capitalists, comprador big bourgeoisie, big landlords and bureaucrat capitalists in cahoots with the Marcos dictatorship gorge on ill-gotten wealth.

The U.S.-Marcos dictatorship's political power is rapidly crumbling, and the hour will soon strike when the people's fierce blows send it to its final destruction. Workers, peasants, petty bourgeois, national bourgeois and other progressive sectors and associations--all are opposing or defying the oppressive decrees promulgated by the U.S.-Marcos dictatorship.

The people realize more clearly than ever that only armed revolution can change this social system and bring about genuine democracy and national independence. In the cities and the countryside, millions of people all over the Philippines participate in advancing the revolutionary armed struggle. At the end of the current decade and more so in the next, the revolution will rush onward even faster and nothing can stop it: not the local ruling classes nor U.S. imperialism, and certainly not the meddling of the Soviet social-imperialists.

The Communist Party of the Philippines is the leading force that has upheld and will uphold the basic demands of the people. It has provided and will provide correct and steadfast leadership to the people's revolutionary struggle. Upon the declaration of martial law by the U.S.-Marcos regime, the Lava revisionist clique completely turned traitor and entered into an unholy alliance with the reactionary government, while Marcos' reactionary rivals such as Macapagal and other bogus leaders either retreated into silence, took flight or made peace with the U.S.-Marcos dictatorship. But the Communist Party of the Philippines remained on its course, steadily persevering in the revolutionary struggle. It is this that has won us the support and the ever more enthusiastic participation of the people in the revolution.

The ideological, political and organizational strengthening of the Party is the decisive link in the further advance of the revolutionary struggle to victory. It will guarantee the spread and growth of the people's revolutionary struggle, and sweep aside the obstacles put up by the reactionary puppets of U.S. imperialism and Soviet social-imperialism.

Arousing, organizing and mobilizing the broad masses of the people in revolutionary struggle lays the basis for the development of armed struggle and the steady advance of the revolution to final victory. The history of Central Luzon proves that when the people grasp and support the Party's correct program, they are a decisive force in toppling the power of the exploiting classes.

Armed struggle is the principal form of struggle in the national democratic revolution. Only people's war can smash the reactionary state and establish the people's democratic dictatorship. We are presently in the stage of preparing and developing the revolutionary forces for people's war.

By waging and promoting different forms of mass struggle now, the people can be prepared for the all-around rise in the level of struggle. Mass struggles are the most effective means of arousing and mobilizing the great majority of the people to prepare for people's war. On the other hand, maintaining and advancing victories of mass struggles on all fronts are linked with the development of armed struggle in the countryside.

Armed struggle in Central Luzon is in the stage of expanding guerrilla warfare. The New People's Army has been and will continue to be the main Party organization in the countryside. It is the principal force in launching and developing armed struggle.

Today, the New People's Army in Central Luzon is stronger than at any time since the decisive defeat of the old people's army (HMB) in the 1950s. The New People's Army has increased its ability to concentrate its forces for tactical offensives from time to time. Extending over eight provinces of Central Luzon, its guerrilla zones have been established in strategic places of the region.

As if enacting a scene from the splendid future, the Party, the New People's Army and the revolutionary masses thwarted the biggest military operation ever launched by the enemy, who tried to seek out and disrupt the Conference. More than 500 PC, PA and PAF troops combed the mountainsides while the Conference was going on. But they found not even one shadow to chase.

With the approval by the Conference of the three-year Party program for Central Luzon, more and bigger victories will certainly be achieved by the Party, the New People's Army and the revolutionary people before the end of the 1970s.

The Conference elected the Central Luzon Regional Party Committee. The First Plenum of the Regional Party Committee was held immediately following the Conference. The Executive Committee and the Secretariat of the Regional Party Committee were elected, and important plans were discussed.

The holding of the Central Luzon Regional Party Conference is a decisive victory of the revolutionary struggle in the region over the last several years. It will definitely propel the revolution forward with more speed and more strength. The objective conditions are excellent, and the revolutionary forces, as indicated by the Conference, are correspondingly gathering strength. As a consequence, the people's revolutionary struggle will surely rise to new heights in Central Luzon.

Long live the Communist Party of the Philippines!

Long live the New People's Army!

On with the revolutionary mass movement!

On with people's war!

Down with U.S. imperialism, feudalism and fascism!

Down with the reactionary government!

Long live the Filipino people!

NPA SEIZES 20 MORE ENEMY FIREARMS IN EASTERN VISAYAS, CAGAYAN VALLEY

The New People's Army continues to boost its firepower by confiscating arms from the enemy whenever the conditions are favorable.

In two recent operations in Eastern Samar and Isabela, for instance, the NPA confiscated another 20 firearms and plenty of ammunition from the enemy.

In the Eastern Samar operation, the Red fighters entered the towns of Arteche and San Policarpio disguised as PC soldiers and disarmed the local police and members of the CHDP. The simultaneous raids on the two towns were launched at 4:30 a.m. last June 9.

According to an initial report, the Red fighters carted off 17 firearms consisting of eight Garand rifles, two automatic carbines, a semi-automatic carbine, six .38 caliber revolvers, and ammunition for these firearms. They also confiscated six typewriters, an adding machine, two radio transceivers, medicine, and documents that included the police blotters.

While in Arteche, the NPA guerrillas called a public meeting and explained to the townspeople that the aim of the Communist Party of the Philippines and of the people's army is to arouse and organize the Filipino masses to liberate themselves from U.S. imperialism, feudalism and fascism.

They also brought to public trial two incorrigible counterrevolutionaries, Police Chief Samuel Nebida and a councilor whose name was not immediately available. They were found guilty of grave crimes against the people and the sentence of death was immediately carried out.

The Red fighters also warned the other policemen against allowing themselves to be used by the people's enemies.

The Eastern Samar raids were well planned and implemented. The Red fighters were so convincing in their disguise that one of them was actually mistaken for a certain PC lieutenant.

Arteche and San Policarpio are to the north of Dolores town, also in Eastern Samar (not Northern Samar as earlier reported by Ang Bayan), where Red fighters successfully carried out an ambush on a nine-man enemy patrol last March 16 (Ang Bayan, June 15, 1977).

In the Dolores operation, the people's guerrillas killed six of the enemy troops and wounded another. They also confiscated two M-16s, an M-79 grenade launcher, a .38 caliber revolver, several M-16 magazines and hundreds of M-16 and M-14 bullets.

In a similar operation, NPA guerrillas confiscated three firearms from the enemy in barrio Guilingan, Benito Soliven, Isabela, on the morning of last April 1.

According to Baringkwas (Uprising), revolutionary newspaper in Northeastern Luzon, 21 Red fighters assembled and ambushed 18 troops of the reactionary AFP's 20th Infantry Battalion. The puppet soldiers were riding in two logging trucks when they were caught in a hail of gunfire.

The people's guerrillas killed eight of the enemy troops and wounded nine others. They also confiscated one M-14 rifle, two M-16s, bullets and magazines, two jungle knives, eight army packs, and medicines.

The enemy dead were team leader Sgt. Dulay, Sgt. P.G. Rigor, an intelligence operative who had been recruiting informers, a corporal also surnamed Dulay, Cpl. Barbisa, 1CT L.C. Ibay and A. Perido, Pfc. G. "Ben" Salvador, a traitor to the revolution, and one other whose name was not immediately available.

Though small and weak compared to the reactionary armed forces, the NPA continues to grow bigger and stronger by persevering in mass work and skillfully using guerrilla tactics.

By hitting the enemy when he least expects it, and depriving him of his weapons, the Red fighters are converting the enemy's arsenal into their own.

200,000 STUDENTS IN 10 SCHOOLS
RALLY TO RESURGENT PROTEST MOVEMENT

The resurgent student protest movement in Metro Manila has mobilized almost 200,000 students in 10 colleges and universities and was resolutely pressing the Marcos fascist regime to heed their just demands.

United under the banner of the Alyansa ng Mag-aaral Laban sa Pagtaas ng Tuition Fee (Students' Alliance Against Tuition Fee Increases), the school youth served notice they would continue boycotting their classes for as long as the Marcos government vacillates on their demands.

In a meeting last July 28, 50 student representatives from the different schools assailed the regime's Department of Education and Culture and the school administrations for dilly-dallying on their demands. They also formulated a new set of demands, among them the following:

1. Remove all troops and spies of the reactionary Armed Forces of the Philippines from the school campuses.
2. Restore the student councils which are prohibited under martial law.
3. Freeze all tuition fee increases.
4. Roll back tuition fees to their previous levels and refund excess amounts collected by the schools.
5. Conduct a thorough investigation into the harassment and intimidation of students by school administrations.
6. Withdraw letters of school administrations threatening the expulsion of student leaders.
7. Stop the arrest and detention of students.

The Alyansa also demanded that the DEC stop authorizing tuition fee increases without prior consultations with the students concerned and their parents. It pointed out that while the regime had been freely granting every petition of the schools to jack up tuition fees, there had been no improvement in school facilities and the quality of education.

The presentation of the demands to the Marcos government followed mass walkouts of students at the University of the Philippines, Araneta University Foundation, University of the East, Adamson University, Trinity College, Philippine College of Commerce, University of Santo Tomas, Philippine Women's University, Feati University and Philippine College of Criminology.

The resurgent student movement sprang up during the school registration period early last month. At the start, there were only a few scores of students at UP struggling against the arbitrary tuition fee hikes which were being imposed in the guise of "democratizing" the state university.

The ranks of the protesting UP students swelled to thousands as classes were scheduled to get under way. Parents and teachers also were mobilized when the Marcos fascist regime unleashed the PC Metrocom at UP's Diliman campus.

The movement soon spread to the privately owned colleges and universities where the students protested the 15 percent increase in tuition fees which the Marcos regime had been authorizing yearly since the imposition of martial law in 1972.

The students found unity and strength in the Alyansa. They distributed resolutions and manifestos, held mass meetings and cultural presentations, and launched walkouts and boycotts.

The mass movement reached a high point in the last three weeks when almost 200,000 students launched simultaneous boycotts in the 10 colleges and universities.

The Marcos regime's response to the students was measured brutality.

At UE and UST, security guards under the command of fascist AFP officers arrested and detained some protesting students and waited to see if this would scare off the others.

This inflamed the student ranks further and mobilized many more to join the Alyansa. It also fired the students to demand not just a rollback of tuition fees but the removal of all AFP soldiers and spies from the campuses.

At press time, while awaiting the government's reply to their demands, the almost 200,000 students in the Alyansa were conducting mass work and further expanding and strengthening their ranks.

* * *

REVOLUTIONARY NEWSPAPERS HOLD PROPAGANDA CONFERENCE

A three-day propaganda conference of several revolutionary newspapers was successfully held recently.

Participating were representatives of the newspapers and two representatives of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Philippines.

In the first part of the conference, the participants gave a brief history of their respective publications. They then criticized themselves for their errors and shortcomings as reflected in the substance and style of their newspapers.

The conferees whole-heartedly accepted the criticisms of other comrades in the spirit of improving their work and further helping to arouse, mobilize and organize the broad masses of the people in the struggle against the exploiting and oppressive classes represented by the U.S.-Marcos dictatorship.

After the criticism and self-criticism session, the participants discussed common problems, and agreed on steps to solve these problems and to forge closer links and cooperation among them.

On the last day of the conference, the Central Committee representatives traced the history of the reestablished Party and of its military arm, the New People's Army. They pointed to the advance of the revolution in the different guerrilla zones and urban areas of the country's nine regions.

The Central Committee representatives pointed out that conditions for the advance of the revolutionary forces under the Party's leadership continue to improve, what with the successive crises brought about by the fascist dictatorship, the sharp divisions in the ruling classes, and the intensified exploitation and oppression of the Filipino masses.

The conference strengthened the ideological, political and organizational unity of the participants.

* * *

RESISTANCE IS PEOPLE'S ANSWER
TO REGIME'S MASSACRE POLICY

Anger is rising in the countryside as the Marcos fascist regime continues to intensify acts of sadistic brutality against the peasant masses and their leaders.

Led by sugar workers, about 500 peasants from six barrios of Kabankalan, Negros Occidental confronted top military officials of the province last March 9 to denounce fascist atrocities in their barrios.

The people of Locotan, Pinggot, Magballo, Canlamay, Tapi and Tabugon presented a petition against the killing, imprisonment and torture of barrio folk, according to a report published by Igrab sa Nakatundan (Western Spark), revolutionary mass newspaper in Western Visayas.

Igrab said in its April 30, 1977 issue that the angry peasants demanded a stop to these abuses in a meeting with Brig. Gen. Emilio Narcise, commander of Task Force Mananabang; Col. Renato de Villa, PC provincial commander; and Capt. Dumpit, commander of the 332nd PC Co. of Hinigaran, Negros Occidental.

They exposed the crimes of PC soldiers under Capt. Robert Estrada and George Presquito who had been conducting counterrevolutionary campaigns in Kabankalan.

The widow of Benjamin Bahiyo courageously spoke out against the PC terrorists who killed her husband in February. So did the brother of sugar worker Jessie Castillo, who was also killed by the PC. And so did the wife of Aurelio Dalmacio who was shot at by the PC; when they missed him, the puppet troops robbed his family instead.

The people also protested the claim by government-controlled radio stations that the cold-blooded killings were the result of "encounters" between the PC and the New People's Army.

In the face of the people's united opposition, the military officials were forced to promise to stop the campaign, pay for the things they took, release the prisoners and discipline Estrada and his men.

"The people learned important lessons from the incident," Igrab reported. "They experienced victory in their fight against military terrorism and it showed them the importance of unity."

Other reports from Eastern Visayas, Bicol and the Southern Tagalog regions document the extent of fascist brutality being unleashed by the U.S.-Marcos dictatorship in the countryside. These reports from all regions are continually being compiled and updated and will be published by Ang Bayan from time to time.

In Eastern Samar, six peasants were massacred in sitio Cagococolao, Can-avid town, last Marcy 27.

According to a report, a PC patrol entered Cagococolao that day firing their guns. Thinking that there was an armed clash nearby, the peasants tried to seek cover. The soldiers ran after them and killed them on the spot, even when they had shown their police clearances.

The victims were Dionisio Galendez, Juanito Galendez, Glicerio Obiena, Antonio Leguin, Eutiquio Leguin and a certain Romeo.

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In Daleros, also in Eastern Samar, 10 peasants reportedly were killed by the fascist military, who also molested their wives and other female relatives.

From the Bicol region, reports condemned the indiscriminate killings by the fascists. Failing to find a single NPA Red fighter in Busak, Ligao, Albay, last Feb. 20, the enemy killed Marichu Dolem. On June 8, in Moroponros, Oas, Albay, a PC-CHDF team shot and seriously wounded the two young daughters of peasant Policarpio Repaso.

On March 19, an NPA Red fighter died to save the lives of several women, children and old folk trapped by raiding PC-CHDF terrorists inside a house in sitio Cabugao, Pantao, Libon, Albay.

At least 30 murders have been recorded in Quezon and Camarines Norte from Dec. 11, 1973 to Oct. 24, 1975, according to a report in the Ang Bayan files.

Actively carrying out the fascist regime's massacre policy in the area are Brig. Gen. Alfredo Montoya, Second PC Zone commander, and units under him such as the 323rd PC Co. under Capt. Rogelio Valentin, the 242nd PC Co. under Maj. Martin Reynon and later under Col. Evaristo Ranot, and PC Ranger teams from Camp Vicente Lim in Canlubang, Laguna.

Also responsible for many atrocities in the area is the Second Military Intelligence Group (II MIG) under Col. Galido, as well as certain policemen and CHDF members.

As documented by the Southern Tagalog Regional Party Committee, enemy forces committed the following bloody crimes:

1. On Dec. 11, 1973, five men were arrested and killed in sitio Mabaang, Bamban, Tagkawayan, Quezon. They were Fernando Balatan, Joven Anday, Silvestre Norte, Mauricio Norte and Eladio Dinglasan. The enemy reported that they were killed in an "encounter". Capt. Valentin personally led his men in carrying out the massacre.

2. Valentin and his men murdered captured NPA Red fighter Roel Tierra on Feb. 8, 1975, in barrio Bagong Silang II, Tagkawayan, making it appear as an "encounter". Tierra was arrested on Feb. 1 and tortured before being killed.

3. Valentin and his men also killed four unidentified men on July 19, 1974 in San Luis, Guinayangan, Quezon. The victims were prisoners from Palawan who were taken to Quezon to be killed. They were made to appear as "NPA guerrillas" killed in a supposed PC ambush.

4. On Oct. 8, 1974, Henry Labac and Carlito Macabuhay, both peasants, were killed in Tabugon, Calauag, Quezon, by Tabugon barrio captain Domingo An who is also head of the local CHDF. Again, they were made to appear as NPA guerrillas.

5. On Nov. 14, 1974, Philippine Army soldiers under Capt. Rodolfo Lorayes killed Amador Inofre and Augusto Candanido in barrio Silang I, Guinayangan. Inofre was the son of a peasant who had joined the NPA while Candanido was a youth activist. Again, this was represented to be an "encounter".

6. On Dec. 10, 1974, NPA Red fighter Jaime Velasco was captured in barrio Bosigon, Tagkawayan. He was killed by PA soldiers the following day upon the successful escape of a political prisoner.

7. On Feb. 9, 1975, Filemon Atienza, 65, peasant, was killed by PC and PA soldiers in Exiban, Labo, Camarines Norte. He was robbed of cash and some valuables, and made to appear as an NPA guerrilla.

8. On Feb. 16, 1975, two political prisoners from Camp Wilhelm in Lucena City were brought to San Luis, Guinayangan, and killed. Witnesses said the two resembled Francisco Portem, Red fighter, and youth activist Carlos San Juan. They were arrested by the II MIG in Bicol in December 1974.

9. On May 31, 1975, PA soldiers murdered Doroteo Simon, peasant and youth activist, in Tonton, Tagkawayan.

10. Also in barrio Tonton, peasant leader Tobias Belo was tortured and murdered in June 1975.

11. In July 1975, PC soldiers led by Sgt. Griagas murdered Benjamin Hernandez in Bamban, Tagkawayan. His only "fault" was that his brother, a barrio councilor, had joined the people's army.

12. In August 1975, peasant Jose Esperanzati was kidnaped and killed by a CHDF unit led by Ciriaco Inocentes in Kabatuhan, Labo, Camarines Norte.

13. On Oct. 16, 1975, four unidentified prisoners were brought to Tabugon, Calauag, Quezon, and massacred by operatives of the II MIG led by Lt. Javier. Two of the victims are believed to have been political prisoners arrested in Lucena City the previous Sept. 21. The two others are believed to be young peasants whose parents have reported them as missing.

14. On Oct. 24, 1975, four male detainees were killed again in barrio Tabugon. A fifth detainee escaped.

As the desperate fascist dictatorship intensifies its terror campaign in the countryside, more and more people are demanding to join the New People's Army, realizing that only armed revolution can stop the violence of the reactionary state.

The Marcos fascist regime will pay for its blood debts in the end, and the people's revolutionary justice will prevail.

. . .

WESTERN VISAYAS PEASANTS EXPOSE 'PALAYANG BAYAN' AS A DECEPTION

Peasants in Western Visayas have frustrated another attempt by the Marcos fascist dictatorship to exploit their hunger for land and a better way of life.

Noticing that they had in fact become prisoners of the "Palayang Bayan" rice production project, the peasants quietly slipped, one by one, out of the hold of the fascist military.

According to the revolutionary mass newspaper Igrab sa Nakatundan (Western Spark, April 30, 1977 issue), events have proved that the "Palayang Bayan" project simply means getting the peasants to clear large tracts of land for the benefit of the Marcos government.

The "Palayang Bayan" project in barrio Lucero, Jamindan, Capiz, began in January 1976 when 53 farming families were made to evacuate their upland farms after a crop failure due to "balabak" infestation.

The promises made by the regime seemed to be good. Each family would get two hectares of land within the 2,044-hectare project. Through

the Department of Social Welfare (DSW), they would get one carabao each, two chickens and two pigs, seedlings, clothes, household goods and food rations for the first seven months. They were promised loans of P500 for their daily expenses, and P300 to build a house.

The P300 never came. Houses could be erected only inside a fenced-in area around the plaza.

When the people began asking about the land they had been promised, they were told that it would be given to them only after ten years.

Twenty-five carabaos arrived, but three died and only three could work in the fields. The rest, 19 in all, were wild calves whose ferocity killed one farmer and seriously injured another.

Because only three plows could be distributed, August came around and the land was still idle. Wanting to start planting, most of the peasants had to use hoes to work the soil.

Rice rations were always short, and when distribution stopped in September, the people were forced to borrow money from the DSW. With the high price of rice (up to P5 a ganta) and the uncertainty of their harvest, they could not hope to repay the debt.

On the other hand, the DSW did give away used clothes--but in exchange for some chickens.

The people quickly realized what the regime had in mind. They were being guarded like prisoners by troops of the Philippine Army. In the middle of the night, they would be roused to unload trucks of gravel and sand. They were made to patrol the area at night, because "the NPA might launch an attack". Those who failed to report for patrol duty were punished by being made to turn around and around while keeping the right hand on the ground, until they collapsed.

"We were not allowed to plant anywhere else," the peasants complained. "If they allowed us to gather firewood, we could sell only to the DSW (DSW). They bought the wood from us at 40 centavos a bundle, then sold it outside at two pesos each."

The gates were closely watched to make sure no one escaped. Even visiting relatives were subjected to restrictions. Those who received permission to leave were sternly warned not to tell their story to others.

According to Igrah, four women were forced to sell their bodies because they needed food and money. "The soldiers would order the husband to gather firewood, then take advantage of his wife," a witness recounted.

The peasants also wanted to know why the government had to drive away settlers who had been farming in the area before them. "If the government's real intention was to give us land and carabaos, why did we have to be brought to the Palayang Bayan? They could have given that to us up in the hills," they said. "And if they really want to help us peasants, why did they drive the settlers away from here? Where will they go?"

Seeing that the regime's promises were, as they said, "baited hooks that will catch onto your belly once you swallow them", the people did not wait for the government to fool them any longer.

Since August last year, they have been leaving one by one, returning to the land they had been tilling in the hills.

Their experience has shown the people that only by relying on their own strength will they find a way out of their poverty, Igrah said.

The people's hope of owning land will come true only if they support the armed struggle to overthrow the power of the landlords and all the exploiting classes. And they are sure of seeing that hope come true, for today the masses in the countryside are strongly supporting and uniting with their real army, the New People's Army.

* * *

FOREIGN DEBT RISES TO \$6 BILLION

The Philippines' foreign debt rose to \$6.04 billion in the first six months of this year, up from \$5.5 billion at the end of 1976, according to the Central Bank in its mid-1977 report.

Every one of 43 million Filipinos is now indebted to the international usurers (IMF, World Bank, ADB and foreign monopoly banks) by at least \$140 or P1,039 at the prevailing exchange rate.

From January to May 31, the country borrowed as much as \$1.2 billion from foreign sources. The fact that total foreign debt went up by \$540 million in the first six months means that well over \$700 million of the new debts was used to repay old debts plus interest.

Earlier, the CB estimated that repayment of old debts plus interest could reach \$821 million for the whole of 1977. But within six months, this figure had almost been reached.

Most of these new loans came from private imperialist banks at high interest and other onerous terms that amount to dictation on the use of the loans.

The Marcos fascist dictatorship has tried to deny the seriousness of the debt crisis by claiming that the bulk of the foreign debt is made up of long-term and medium-term loans which will fall due after 1980.

A recent World Bank report revealed, however, that over \$1 billion of the total foreign debt is made up of "revolving credits" that must be repaid within one year unless payment is postponed, but at higher interest. What's more, the Marcos regime has been periodically negotiating for a postponement of repayment of medium-term loans at higher interest.

Even now, the Marcos regime is being forced to borrow huge sums just to meet current principal and interest payments. Meanwhile, interest continues to pile up on loans whose repayment dates have been pushed back.

To pay back these debts, the Marcos regime pins its hopes on its "all-out" export program that, however, continues to be a dismal failure in view of the crisis of the world capitalist system.

In the first six months of 1977, the country suffered a trade deficit of \$233 million. To cover up for this, the reactionary government has gotten bigger borrowings from the U.S.-controlled IMF. These loans make it possible for the Philippines to continue importing finished goods from the imperialist countries.

World market prices of the country's top raw material exports such as sugar, logs and lumber, mineral ores, remain depressed. In the imperialist scheme, the Philippines will continue to suffer huge trade deficits and will be deeper in debt to the international usurers in the next decade.

The U.S.-Marcos dictatorship is principally responsible for the accelerated growth of the country's foreign debt. Since 1972, government

borrowings from abroad have been increasing twice as fast as borrowings by the private sector. The government's share of the foreign debt reached over 56 percent in 1976, up from 43 percent in 1972.

Government foreign borrowings, aside from enriching Marcos, have been used to finance infrastructure projects such as power, electrification, port facilities and roads. These projects are meant principally to serve imperialist and big bourgeois business interests, especially those involved in the export of raw materials to imperialist countries.

Meantime, borrowings by the private sector continue to be cornered by local subsidiaries of U.S. and Japanese imperialist firms. For instance, 90 percent of private foreign debt as of end-1976 went to the manufacturing, mining and public-utilities sectors--traditional enclaves of foreign monopoly capital.

U.S. imperialism is pushing the Marcos fascist dictatorship to beg for more and bigger foreign loans. The U.S.-dominated World Bank recently "advised" the Philippine government to borrow \$6 billion more from foreign governments and official international lending institutions up to 1985.

It also said that the country should seek \$1.4 billion more in medium- and long-term loans every year from private monopoly capitalist banks.

Taken as a whole, the country's foreign debt not only puts an intolerable burden on the people, but also serves to promote the colonial pattern of trade and foreign investments which sinks the Philippines deeper into debt.

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MASS ACTIONS PROTEST CONVICTION OF FILIPINO NURSES IN U.S.

A wave of protests here and in the United States followed the conviction on July 13 of Filipino nurses Leonora Perez and Filipina Narciso for allegedly conspiring and poisoning five patients at the Veterana Administration Hospital in Ann Arbor, Michigan, U.S.A.

Members of the Michigan chapter of the Philippine Nurses Association marched and picketed to proclaim their solidarity with their two embattled colleagues and compatriots and to denounce an obvious injustice. They were later joined by American nurses and other professionals.

The American nurses denounced the court ruling as a threat to their profession. If allowed to stand, the decision means that the mere presence of a nurse near a patient who dies under mysterious circumstances could make the nurse answerable for the death.

For the thousands of Filipino nurses in the U.S., this threat to their profession is real enough. But more than this, there is ample proof of racism in the U.S. government's handling of the case. Already subjected to discrimination in employment, pay and promotion, the Filipino nurses see a pattern to discredit them further.

To begin with, the U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation and the U.S. government panel that prosecuted the case at the federal district court of Detroit, Michigan, could produce no evidence to show that the two Filipino nurses would profit in any manner from the death of the patients.

Aside from not being able to establish any motive, they relied on flimsy circumstantial evidence obtained from witnesses who have deep prejudices against non-whites, and others who were placed under hypnosis.

The FBI, which is notorious for its fascist tactics in support of U.S. imperialism, showed bad faith in other ways. The bureau and the government prosecutors concealed the confession of a white American nurse who later committed suicide that she was responsible for the deaths of the VAM patients.

At the trial, it was revealed that the FBI had subjected Narciso and Perez to long hours of intense interrogation and paid them harassing visits since 1975. Through all these, they firmly denied having injected the deadly drugs into the patients.

Concerned about the implications of the decision on the nursing profession, the 8,500-member Michigan Nurses Association demanded an investigation by the U.S. Congress. The association questioned the use of circumstantial evidence against the nurses.

While the Narciso-Perez case underscores the weakness of the U.S. judicial system, it also exposes the hypocrisy of the Marcos regime.

Aware of the widespread interest generated by the case, the Marcos government tried to cash in on the publicity by faking sympathy for the nurses. This apparently was meant to court the support of an estimated 500,000 to 600,000 Filipinos and Filipino-Americans in the U.S., most of whom are with the Filipino people at home against the fascist regime.

While the Marcos government sheds crocodile tears over the two nurses' prosecution and conviction, it neglects to protest against open discrimination in the U.S. and other foreign countries against Filipino workers and professionals.

On the other hand, because the "new society" cannot provide jobs to the people, it practically pushes them to seek employment abroad even if they occupy lower positions with lower pay and submit themselves to other forms of discrimination and injustice, as in the Narciso-Perez case.

EAST TIMORESE MASSES FIGHT U.S.-SUHARTO DICTATORSHIP

The fraternal people of East Timor are successfully pushing through their armed struggle to win complete independence from the U.S.-Suharto fascist dictatorship of Indonesia.

Firmly united under the banner of the Democratic Republic of East Timor, the people are militantly defending their territory against the aggressors.

Upon orders from Jakarta, the Indonesian capital, Suharto's puppet troops invaded East Timor in December 1975, a month after the proclamation of independence by the East Timorese people, close neighbors to the south of the Filipino people.

At present, reports said, 85 percent of the territory is held by the liberation forces under the leadership of the Fretilin.

The people in the liberated areas have taken the necessary steps to thwart the counterrevolutionary offensive expected to be launched by the Suharto regime in the dry season (July to November in East Timor). Even in the midst of raging people's war, they undertook a vigorous food production campaign. Their current harvests are as big as the highest production figures attained under the rule of Portuguese colonialism.

Numerous international organizations have condemned the indiscriminate massacres by Indonesian puppet troops in East Timor. According to reports, the aggressors have killed 100,000 people in less than two years, out of a total population of less than a million inhabitants.

Nevertheless, Suharto's puppet troops are paying dearly with their lives. Fretilin estimates that about 20,000 enemy troops have been killed by the liberation forces in their war of defense. As a result, enemy soldiers are terrorized in battle and they have to be rotated from the fighting front every three months.

Even as Indonesia reels from the present economic crisis, the war against East Timor has already cost Suharto--a U.S.-imperialist puppet who is as thick as thieves with his fellow dictator Marcos--as much as \$200 million.

Fearing that its rabid agent might not be able to extricate himself from a sticky situation, U.S. imperialism has been prodding him to negotiate with the Democratic Republic of East Timor. The imperialist plan still calls for the latter to surrender its independence to the U.S.-Suharto dictatorship.

In reply, a responsible official has said: "Fretilin will never accept negotiations that compromise our independence; that aim for East Timor to become an 'autonomous province' or some similar neocolonial system."

He said further: "We will not negotiate at all until Jakarta removes all of its troops from our country--in accordance with resolutions passed by the United Nations General Assembly and Security Council."