

ANG

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NPA RED FIGHTERS KILL 32 MORE
PUPPET TROOPS IN CENTRAL LUZON

Thirty-two enemy troops were killed in three separate clashes in Central Luzon last month between Red fighters of the New People's Army and reactionary government forces.

Several funeral parlors were crowded with rows of coffins, 24 in all, after an eight-hour battle in sitio Maligaya of Maliwalu, Tarlac, Tarlac, last May 26.

On the other hand, four puppet troops were killed in each of two encounters which took place May 3 in Patling, Capas, Tarlac, and on May 30 in Planas, Porac, Pampanga.

In three earlier Central Luzon battles from March to early May, Red fighters had killed 26 puppet troops (Ang Bayan, May 31, 1977).

In the May 26 encounter at Maliwalu, a seven-man NPA unit fought back 300 enemy troops. The entire unit broke through the enemy cordon, except for one Red fighter who was hit while trying to seize an Armalite rifle lying beside a dead enemy soldier.

"Even when we were already far away, they continued to shoot," a Red fighter said. "So it's possible that at least some of their casualties were caused by their own bullets."

Earlier, at about 2:30 in the afternoon, the enemy troops had encircled the NPA unit which was staying in two adjoining houses. PC soldiers were brought in from Camp Makabulos, Philippine Army troopers from Camp Aquino, and CHDF units from several barrios.

Because the barrio residents had been evacuated from their houses, the people's guerrillas were able to fight without fear for the safety of the masses. They took aim carefully, not wasting their bullets--while on the other side, the puppet troops would rake the air with wild volleys, their eyes tightly shut and their heads buried in the ground.

When night came, after several hours of shooting and with dead bodies littering the ground, an armored vehicle, the "Dimasalang", was called in. The tank-like vehicle's .50 caliber machinegun began hitting the Red fighters' position. But the latter knew of a way to elude the "Dimasalang", and within a short period of time they had slipped through the enemy lines. The puppet troops were left behind, shooting away at each other.

Arriving in one barrio, the NPA unit found that the people had been sitting up all night. "We have been waiting for you," the peasants and their families said. "Since this afternoon we have been listening to the gunfire. We knew you would safely get away from the enemy."

Supper had already been prepared for the tired people's guerrillas. As soon as the news spread to the various barrios that they had come, the people wanted to celebrate. They sent packages of food, clean clothes, cigarettes, a little money and medicine for those who might have been wounded.

One unit of the people's army noted the enemy's demoralization in the face of the Red fighters' determination to fight, when the unit became the target of an enemy offensive in the hills of Patling, Capas, Tarlac, last May 3.

Four puppet troops were killed in the battle, which lasted for 30 minutes. No casualty was suffered by the 13-man NPA unit.

The reactionary forces met another setback on May 30, when they failed to carry out an ambush on an NPA unit in Planas, Porac, Pampanga.

The Red fighters spotted the would-be ambushers and were able to fire first. They killed the captain who was leading the squad of Metrodiscom soldiers and CHDF members. A sergeant and two PC constables also fell dead, and a fifth puppet soldier was wounded.

The others scurried away when their commanding officer was killed. In five minutes, the fighting was over, with no casualties on the side of the Red fighters.

Using the correct tactics of revolutionary guerrilla warfare, the New People's Army lays the conditions in which it can quickly overcome the enemy and seize their firearms.

Tactical offensives are meticulously prepared in accordance with a deep-going analysis of prevailing conditions, with the aim of preserving the revolutionary forces while confiscating the weapons needed to expand the armed struggle.

But even when the action is initiated by the enemy side and confrontation is unavoidable, NPA units still retain their advantage, as the recent events have shown.

The Red fighters are familiar with every spot and pathway in the guerrilla zones where they are assigned. They are careful shooters, so that they don't run out of bullets after a few bursts of automatic fire. A keen sense of unity and discipline binds the unit together.

Above all, the unity between the people and the people's army constitutes a powerful fortress that can stand firm against enemy attack. The masses of the countryside, together with the people's army, are fighting to defend the political and economic gains they have won through hard struggle. They are also fighting to advance the revolutionary movement towards the emancipation of the oppressed classes in Philippine society.

In the heat of battle, the heart of the Red fighter burns with the spirit of serving the Party, the revolution and the masses of the people.

* * *

AFP, MONKEES ARE ON A MURDER, KIDNAPING RAMPAGE IN TARLAC

Reactionary forces are on a rampage of murders, kidnappings and various other crimes against the people of Tarlac, as the ruling classes rage against the unity and the triumphs of the revolutionary mass movement in that province.

At least 35 persons have been killed in the past year by agents of the reactionary state in just three towns--Concepcion, Bamban and Capas.

Barrio residents are kidnaped and killed on the mere suspicion that they might be active in behalf of the oppressed workers and peasants in the countryside.

The same crimes are committed against relatives of Red cadres and fighters of the New People's Army, even when the victims are not actually connected with the revolutionary movement.

Local officials of the reactionary government are eliminated if they are not fanatical enough in carrying out counter-revolutionary activities.

Following are some typical examples of the fascist crimes that have taken place within the past year:

--Mio, an Aeta herdsman, was killed together with a companion; both

were residents of sitio Bueno, Patling, Capas. A group of PC soldiers and CHDF members waylaid Mio and his neighbor last January 1977, after Mio had testified against the PC supervisor of the CHDF unit in Patling. The herdsman had said the PC officer was responsible for the theft of cattle in the locality.

--Federico de Guzman, 40, and Diosdado Roque, 60, both of Mallabon, Patling, were beaten and stabbed to death in October 1976. Their torturers, who posed as an NPA unit, wanted to make them confess to having links with the people's army.

--Quiao Pabustan, 51, barangay captain and CHDF head of Dolores, Capas, was picked up after a barangay meeting. He was knifed dead by henchmen of Benjamin Sanguyo, alias Pusa, because he refused to betray the interests of the barrio people and he would not fight actively against the people's army. The killers left his body on the railroad tracks to be mutilated by a passing train.

--Castor Canlas, 29, was killed by Sanguyo and his henchmen last May 1977. The only offense of the victim, a simple peasant, was that of being the brother-in-law of a cadre in the people's army.

--Jose Datu, 39, president of the Maintenance Union at the Voice of America transmitting and electronic intelligence station in Capas, was picked up by Sanguyo and his men a few days before Christmas in 1976. Datu was killed on his way home from a meeting of the workers' union at VOA, whose facilities are used for the transmission of imperialist propaganda.

--Sanguyo's men killed Filemon Lagazon, 30, of Talaga, Capas, on June 5, 1976. They wanted to grab the land he was tilling.

--Mayor Gerardo David of Capas was shot dead last March 15, 1977, because "each time he had to be pushed into fighting against the (revolutionary) movement".

--Rogelio Bulanadi, 30, could not withstand the hardships that genuine people's guerrillas willingly endure. He surrendered to the reactionary authorities, but failed to be as much of a traitor as they wanted him to become. He was killed by PC troops in Talaga, Capas, in the presence of his family.

--Fernando Galang, 19, and Fernando Lundang, 21, both of Sta. Lucia, Capas, disappeared last March 20. Relatives of Red fighters, they were suspected of being youth organizers in their barrio.

These atrocities are being perpetrated by PC personnel and Monkees (paramilitary goons) upon orders of the U.S.-Marcos dictatorship and the ruling classes it represents.

Brig. Gen. Romeo Gatan, chief of the First PC Zone, supervises the counter-revolutionary activities of Sanguyo, Ben Pineda and their cohorts. The two are anti-social elements who, for a time, successfully pretended to take up the cause of the oppressed masses and fight against the ruling classes. Aside from them, there are other Monkees on the loose, such as Jun Santos of Patling, all of whom are authorized to murder anyone who catches their eye.

Hired killers are also employed by Rafael Suarez, former mayor of Concepcion, and Mercedes Tiongson, a despotic big landlord.

Suarez, who is close to Marcos, holds the rank of colonel in the reactionary AFP. He has custody of the "Dimasalang", an armored car used in military operations in the area against the people's army. (See related story on page 1.) Tiongson also has strong connections with the PC. Hated by the peasants for her abuses, Tiongson is known to burn the homes of "uncooperative" tenants.

Disorder reigns in the countryside with the "peace and order" campaign of the reactionary government and its killer squads.

In the towns mentioned, villagers often lose their cattle to the PC, allegedly because the work animals are owned by the NPA.

Poor peasants who go to the woods to gather fuel or make charcoal to supplement their income are harassed and preyed upon.

In some barrios, gatherings of more than three persons are banned.

And yet despite enemy terrorism--more than 200 citizens were killed by the enemy in the year 1969-70 alone--the masses of the people are steadily marching ahead on the difficult road towards the full emancipation of the oppressed.

They are aware that without the leadership of the Communist Party of the Philippines, through the New People's Army, they cannot break free of violence and exploitation.

Even at this early stage, the masses in these localities have had a taste of partial victory. Land rent reduction and elimination of usury are widespread and the peasants have stopped paying land rent in certain big estates. Farm workers have won wage increases, from P2.50 to P5 or P6 for some, from P7 to P10 for others.

Guided by Party cadres, the people organize production campaigns. Idle lands are put to use, such as subdivisions that are planted to vegetables.

These measures have improved the life of the peasants. They have seen that the reactionary government never gave them such benefits. They realize that meaningful change can be had only through their own organized efforts and support for the armed struggle against the fascist, pro-landlord and pro-imperialist dictatorship.

Until the national democratic revolution wins total victory all over the land, paving the way for socialist construction, the first fruits of the people's struggle can only be imperfect. The ruling classes will not stop trying to impose their domination.

The New People's Army first took roots in the fertile ground of the mass struggles launched by the people of the second district of Tarlac.

Savage repression is increasing the hatred felt by the revolutionary masses there, and strengthens their will to fight to the end. The sacrifice and hardships of today will make victory even more precious tomorrow.

* * *

400,000 SUGAR WORKERS LAID OFF; REGIME WORRIED ABOUT 'SECURITY'

As many as 400,000 sugar farm and mill workers will be thrown out of work by the end of the milling season this month because of the severe crisis plaguing the Philippine sugar industry.

More than ever before, at least 2 million people--the workers and their immediate dependents--will sink deeper into poverty, hunger and disease.

The world sugar market remains depressed and the Marcos fascist regime has been unable to sell huge stockpiles of the commodity. As a result, less sugarcane is being planted and the workers are losing their jobs.

Ironically, while the warehouses are fairly bursting with unsold sugar, the Marcos government has decreed an increase in domestic sugar prices, burdening further the broad masses of the people. The retail price of refined sugar was raised by 25 centavos per kilo, while those of brown and unwashed sugar went up by 20 centavos.

The displaced workers make up over 80 percent of the sugar industry's estimated labor force of around half a million. This will further increase the number of unemployed and underemployed in the country which, at last count, totalled no less than 7 million people.

Even as the problem reached crisis proportions, the reactionary government has done nothing but undertake publicity stunts disguised as "relief programs" and alert the fascist military against what it fears will be an upsurge in revolutionary activity in the countryside.

Marcos' fears are not unfounded. The sacadas (migratory seasonal workers) and regular farm workers are stepping up their militant protest against the fascist dictatorship and despotic sugar barons. The Communist Party of the Philippines and the New People's Army are now well-rooted in many sugar-producing areas and are in a position to rapidly arouse, organize and mobilize the sugar workers.

Responsibility for the crisis rests squarely with U.S. imperialism and its puppet Marcos regime. The imperialists manipulated the world sugar market to force down prices and tighten their hold on the local sugar industry. On the other hand, the Marcos regime monopolized the export of Philippine sugar to grab its share of the loot.

Only three years ago, the country's sugar industry enjoyed an export boom. There was a temporary shortage in the world sugar market and prices shot up to as high as 65 U.S. cents a pound. At the peak of the boom in 1974, the Philippines exported as much as \$785 million worth of sugar.

This turned out to be the bait that lured the local sugar industry deeper into the clutches of U.S. imperialism. Eager to rake in fortunes, local big compradors went into a frenzy of building sugar centrals, financed mainly with government-tended foreign loans, and converted more croplands into sugar plantations.

They were led by Marcos himself who put up at least three new sugar centrals through his dummy Roberto Benedicto. These are the Northern Cotabato Sugar Industries, United Planters Sugar Milling and Bukidnon Sugar Milling.

Within two years, the temporary shortage in the world market gave way to a huge surplus. Prices fell and Philippine exports dropped sharply. In 1976, sugar exports reached only \$427 million while prices were down to 7 to 8 U.S. cents a pound.

By this time, the sugar industry had borrowed heavily from the Philippine National Bank. Today it remains in debt up to P5.2 billion. Some 15 sugar mills financed by PNB have outstanding loans of about P600 million.

With so much more in public funds and the country's resources sunk in the sugar industry and the world market depressed, the Philippines has become even more dependent on the United States as a market. But even this traditional market has become insecure since the Philippines lost its privileged position with the expiration of the U.S. Sugar Quota Act in 1974.

The situation has been aggravated by the Marcos regime's takeover of the country's sugar trade. Since 1973, the trading of sugar has been completely in the hands of the Philippine Exchange (Philex), a subsidiary of the PNB. PNB sets a yearly price which it pays to planters for their milled sugar.

The government takeover has funnelled billions of pesos into the regime's coffers as well as into that of the fascist dictator and his cronies at the expense of the sugar planters. In 1974, when world sugar prices hit 65 U.S. cents a pound or P678 a picul, PNB was paying planters a measly P134 a picul. The fascist dictator and his cronies were free to do as they pleased with PNB's fat profits.

The sugar planters, in turn, took this out on the sugar workers. As early as mid-1976, not a few of them refused to pay the workers even their meager wages.

In a bid to push up prices higher, he withheld sugar exports in late 1974. Prices did go up--for a while--but later quickly skidded down. By the time Marcos began selling again in 1975, prices dropped further and losses were heavy. Huge stockpiles had been built up and the 1974-75 crop could not be sold until 1976.

Since then, Marcos has been trying desperately to sell the huge stockpiles. U.S. monopoly capitalist groups quickly moved in and got two five-year contracts to buy the sugar at rock-bottom prices.

Despite the regime's all-out sales campaign, the country will still have about 1.5 million tons of sugar in excess of its exports and domestic needs by the end of the crop year in August.

With world prices expected to stay at 10 to 15 U.S. cents a pound for the next few years, sugar planters are cutting down production drastically. For hundreds of thousands of sugar workers, this means prolonged unemployment and slow starvation for them and their families.

The fascist regime has admitted that in the top sugar-producing province of Negros Occidental alone, no less than 75,000 out of 135,000 workers will be laid off. The real number is certainly bigger. In any case, the government's "emergency employment programs" provide a total of only 357 job openings for all those thrown out of work.

In protest, farm and mill workers marched around Bacolod City and the surrounding towns last May 1, gathering enthusiastic support from big crowds along the way. In April, tens of thousands gathered in Bacolod to take part in Good Friday rites that exposed the intolerable living and working conditions of the workers. These mass actions point to the militant mood sweeping the country's 39,000 sugar farms and 43 mills.

Meantime, Marcos has also antagonized the majority of sugar planters and millers whose interests have been jeopardized by his takeover of the sugar trade. Not a few of them privately urge a coup d'etat to topple the fascist dictator even as they publicly press him to restore their privileges.

But while Marcos tries to dupe the sugar barons with concessions, he can find nothing at all to offer the masses of sugar workers. The army of displaced workers that he and his imperialist masters have created will, in time, help dig their graves.

* * *

HOW EXPLOITED ARE FILIPINO WORKERS UNDER MARTIAL LAW?

In just three minutes, the average worker in the petroleum industry produces the equivalent of what the U.S. imperialists pay him per day.

He spends the rest of his working day, all seven hours and 57 minutes of it, creating wealth for the foreign and local exploiters.

According to a study made by the Kalayaan Research Group, the rate of exploitation of the Filipino working class has risen tremendously under fascist martial rule. This is the result of U.S. imperialist domination of the economy and the shameless puppetry of the Marcos fascist regime.

The study, entitled "Rate of Exploitation Rises During the Marcos Years", was published in Liberation last May 1. It makes good use of the analytical tools of Marxist political economy to show how and why the Filipino worker is justified in rebelling, more than ever before.

To begin with, the wages of Filipino workers fall far short of their most basic needs, the study said.

Workers in the urban areas hardly get one-fourth of what they need to keep their families alive. In the Manila-Rizal region, a family of six should have an income of P40 a day, or four times more than the P10 minimum wage.

In the rural areas, wages are even lower. Farm workers are paid only one-sixth of what they should get to keep their families alive.

In the upsurge of workers' strikes in the last two years, demands have been raised calling on the capitalists to pay the already inadequate wages and allowances granted under fascist law. Yet these demands are not complied with, what with the ban on strikes and other repressive measures imposed in behalf of the big bourgeoisie.

Low as the wages are, every year their real value is cut down by the rapid rise in prices. As compared to 1970, in 1976 all salary and wage workers were actually receiving 37 percent less for an hour's work. This drop in real wages was due to the massive increase (almost 140 percent) in consumer prices during the same period.

There can be no capitalism without the exploitation of the working class. The system of production dictates that the owners of capital and land appropriate for themselves the surplus value created by the workers.

Surplus value, as defined by Karl Marx, is the value the worker produces over and above the value of his labor-power (as expressed in wages).

In its analysis, the KRG applies Marx' formula for computing the rate of surplus value or the rate of exploitation which is: surplus value gotten by the capitalist over wages paid to the worker.

Based on this calculation, the researchers found out that the rate of exploitation in manufacturing industries has grown bigger and bigger through the years.

The rate of exploitation in these industries had gone up by 78 percent in the 15-year period from 1956 to 1971. On the other hand, it rose by 180 percent from 1971 to 1975. From 1973 to 1974 alone, the first two full years of fascist martial rule, the rate of exploitation jumped by as high as 110 percent.

The study explained that in 1956, the worker in the manufacturing sector received 36 centavos in wages out of every peso of total net output that he produced (that is, total production less cost of raw materials and depreciation of capital goods, physical plant, machinery, etc.). By 1971, his share in wages had gone down to 24 centavos and even lower to 9 centavos in 1975.

On the other hand, the surplus value appropriated by the capitalist from every peso of the worker's net output had risen rapidly: from 64 centavos in 1956 to 76 centavos in 1971 and 91 centavos in 1975.

In terms of labor-time, the study found that in 1956 the workers in manufacturing spent two hours and 53 minutes producing for himself and 5 hours and 7 minutes for the capitalist. But in 1971, he was spending 1 hour and 57 minutes for himself and 6 hours and 3 minutes for the capitalist. This worsened further in 1975 when he spent 7 hours and 16 minutes producing for the capitalist and only 44 minutes for himself.

In short, the worker is producing more goods and creating more wealth than ever before. But his share of those goods and that wealth is getting smaller than ever before.

The rate of exploitation is highest and has risen fastest in firms directly owned by U.S. monopoly capitalists.

According to the study, the rate of exploitation in the imperialist-dominated petroleum industry went up by 88 percent in a span of only 6 years, from 1965 to 1971. But this jump is small compared to the 290 percent increase that took place in the first three years of martial rule, from 1973 to 1975.

Exploitation intensified in the martial law period because of big increases in the productivity of petroleum workers coupled with the series of huge price hikes granted to imperialist oil companies by the Marcos regime.

~~The paper also said that in 1975 the U.S. imperialists got 99 centavos out of every peso of net output of a petroleum worker. In terms of hours spent in production, only 3 minutes had gone to the worker.~~

Capitalist exploitation of the proletariat is also worsening in other industries. In mining and construction, the study revealed that while workers have been producing more and more per hour of the working day, wages have not gone up accordingly. The gap between labor productivity and wages has widened even more since the imposition of martial law.

Even worse off than the industrial workers are some 3 million agricultural workers of cash crop plantations. Three times as many as the industrial workers, they are found mainly in sugar and coconut plantations.

To make up for the backward state of the country's hacienda system, the big comprador landlords subject the farm workers to the worst forms of capitalist and feudal exploitation.

Farm workers are paid starvation wages and subjected to usury through such means as overpricing in "company canteens" and the anomalous contratista's fees. They labor under the harshest conditions for long hours, and remain unemployed during most of the year.

Sugar barons are notorious for paying their migratory seasonal workers or sacadas as low as P2 to P4 for a day's work. Under the "pakyaw" or quota system, unpaid labor by the worker's wife and children makes possible the fulfillment of high production quotas.

When total net income of the sugar industry jumped by more than 400 percent during the sugar boom in 1973-74, wages hardly rose. Now that the industry is burdened by huge surpluses and low prices, hundreds of thousands are being laid off.

Hired workers and tenants in coconut plantations are just as severely exploited. The KRG cited another recent research showing that in an average coconut plantation in Southern Tagalog provinces the landlord usually pockets 90 percent of the total net output.

The paper said that the increased exploitation of the proletariat has been made easy by the Marcos regime's policy of repressing the worker masses and cheapening their labor for the imperialists and the big

bourgeoisie. The ban on strikes and the brutal suppression of the workers' movement are the regime's biggest incentive for foreign investments.

To liberate themselves from monopoly-capitalist exploitation, the masses of Filipino workers are uniting with and leading the peasantry and other classes and sectors similarly oppressed and exploited in this semi-colonial and semifeudal society.

With the Communist Party of the Philippines as its vanguard, the revolutionary proletariat exercises class leadership in the national democratic revolution to topple the Marcos fascist dictatorship and the entire ruling system and bring the country onward to socialism.

* * *

FILIPINO SEAMEN STRIKE, FORCE BIG JAPANESE FIRM TO PAY UP

United and acting decisively, Filipino merchant marines forced a giant Japanese company to pay them almost P3.5 million in back wages and to heed their other demands.

One after another, the all-Filipino crews of the M/T Bravery, M/S Lusty, and M/S Sanyu Maru boldly asserted their rights. They confiscated the M/T Bravery and abandoned the two other ships in foreign ports.

The owner of the ships, Okada Kaiun Co., Ltd., based in Osaka, Japan, had no recourse but to pay the long-outstanding wages of the crews and give attention to their other demands.

The cheating on the part of the big Japanese capitalists came out into the open when the crewmen of the M/T Bravery, along with their Filipino captain, seized the ship and brought it to Manila May 27. They refused to release the ship unless their demands were met.

Before it was diverted and brought to Manila, the ship was bound for London, England, with a cargo of 13,000 tons of molasses.

Before this, on April 30, Filipino crewmen of the M/S Lusty went on strike and abandoned the ship in Bahrain, Saudi Arabia. Among their complaints, they said they and their families were going hungry because of the company's refusal to pay their wages. There was not even any food on board for them, they said.

In Essex, England, meantime, the Filipino crewmen of the M/S Sanyu Maru also struck and abandoned the ship at the local port.

The Filipino sailors on these Japanese ships have several other complaints, among them the following:

1. Their lives are in constant danger because the company refuses to have damages on the ships repaired. The company also refuses to buy spare parts needed to replace worn-out ones.
2. They are subjected to racial discrimination. Shore leaves are limited while they are in Japanese ports and they are denied other privileges that are normally extended to merchant marines of other nationalities.

The victory won by the sailors of the three ships has inspired Filipino seamen sailing the oceans of the world to strike blows in defense of their legitimate rights.

* * *

PEOPLE'S RALLY HELD IN METRO MANILA;
AFP'S NAES-ARREST SCHEME FRUSTRATED

-- Bogus national independence and the curtailment of democratic rights were denounced at a militant demonstration held June 12 at the St. Joseph's College in Quezon City.

Some 1,200 people succeeded in entering the college compound before fascist troops sealed it off at 4:30 p.m. This started a 16-hour war of nerves between the demonstrators and the uniformed goons of the fascist regime.

The college was a virtual detention center. The fascist military padlocked all the gates and prohibited vehicular traffic in front. They surrounded the college with 500 PC Motrocom troops, policemen, barangay guards and intelligence agents. They had with them two firetrucks, two big Motrocom buses and 20 other vehicles.

Inside the college, the demonstrators refused to be intimidated. They proceeded with their militant rally. Revolutionary unity characterized the gathering of workers, urban poor, batalyas (fish handlers), nuns and priests, and students and others.

To open the program, they sang the national anthem and the Internationale, hymn of the world proletariat, with fists upraised.

One after another, the speakers condemned fake national independence and the suppression of democratic rights under martial law, and rallied the people to change the situation.

They expressed their anger at the fascist regime by shouting such slogans as "Marcos, Hitler, diktador, tutal!" (Marcos, Hitler, dictator, running dog!), "Ibagaok ang imperyalismong Amerikano at Hapones!" (Down with U.S. and Japanese imperialism!), "Isulong ang pambansang demokratikong rebolusyon!" (Carry the national democratic revolution forward!), and "Mabuhay ang anakpawis!" (Long live the toiling classes!).

There were 500 others who were unable to get inside the college before the fascist troops sealed it off. At about 5 p.m., they suddenly appeared at the Chinese garden at the Luneta national park in Manila and held a 15-minute demonstration. They marched and shouted revolutionary slogans. Before the park guards and the fascist military could get there, the demonstrators had dispersed and mixed with the holiday crowd.

Suspecting that the demonstrators at St. Joseph's would stage a march, the fascist military refused to let them out at the end of their protest action at 6 p.m. The demonstrators formed a 17-person negotiating panel to talk to the fascist military. They presented the following demands:

1. They be allowed to disperse peacefully without being arrested.
2. Traffic be allowed to flow so they could easily hop onto jeeps and buses.
3. All military personnel be moved 100 meters away so the intelligence would not be able to take pictures.
4. They be allowed to leave before 9 p.m. so they could beat the curfew and not be arrested for "violating" it.

The fascist military agreed to open the gates at 10:30 p.m. But the demonstrators detected a trap. Powerful spotlights were trained at the gate and soldiers were concealed in the dark. They decided not to leave that night.

They formed defense units when the fascist military threatened to arrest them for alleged curfew violation. They also organized a "mini-government" and all important matters were discussed in a democratic manner. They shared what little food they had and showed fraternal warmth toward one another. They also flushed out a few spies who had sneaked into the gathering.

Vehicular traffic was flowing in front of the college the following morning. The demonstrators decided to test the situation. A jeepney left the college full of demonstrators. The fascist military stopped the vehicle at the gate and took pictures. But they let it go.

Then the fascist military tried threats once again. Brig. Gen. Prospero Olivas, PC Metrocom chief, warned the demonstrators still inside that unless they all went out in three hours, it would be "legal" for him and his men to resort to force.

But the fascist military was no longer in control of conditions. Because of organized moves by the demonstrators, foreign newspapermen who had been contacted the previous night were assembled at the college. Also on hand were the demonstrators' families and other allies.

The demonstrators decided to leave. They were photographed as they went out the gate and boarded passing buses and jeepneys. But because they kept watch and continually assessed the situation, and because they mobilized help from outside the school, they frustrated the military's scheme to arrest all of them.

In their assessment of the events of June 12-13, the demonstrators said the 16-hour siege of St. Joseph's gave them new insights into how to fight the enemy more effectively. They also sharpened their skills at organization and flexibility in a tight situation.

By their June 12 demonstration, the aroused masses affirmed once again their courage and determination to stand up against the U.S.-Marcos dictatorship.

With all its goons and arms, the fascist dictatorship cannot stop a determined and united people from asserting their democratic rights against exploitation and oppression. Bigger and more militant mass actions are even now being planned.

* * *

HERDIS BUSINESS EMPIRE SHOWS HOW MARCOS AND FRIENDS ARE GROWING RICH

Before martial law, Herminio Disini was unknown except for the fact that he was married to a cousin of Imelda Marcos. Today, as a crony and dummy of the Marcoses and of key officials of the reactionary Armed Forces of the Philippines, he presides over one of the country's biggest manufacturing, marketing and financing empires.

The story of Disini, and of the Herdis Group of Companies which he heads, clearly illustrates the greed and corruption of the fascist dictator Marcos, his wife and their cohorts in the AFP and elsewhere.

It is the story of wholesale landgrabbing, of ruthless swallowing up of one company after another, of huge kickbacks, of unqualified financial and even military backing of the fascist martial law regime.

To be sure, Disini is not the only dummy of the Marcoses and the top AFP officials. There are several more like him, spread out in almost every big money-making venture in the country. But he does give an idea

how the Marcoses and their friends are continually growing rich while the rest of the Filipino people struggle with poverty and hunger.

Just last month, a newspaper reported that the Herdis Group had acquired the branches in the Philippines of a giant American firm, U.S. Industries, based in New York City. These are USIPhil, Koppel, Inc., Equipment Credit Corporation, and USI Pacific Apparel Corporation. These transactions involved hundreds of millions of pesos.

The newspaper also reported that all indications pointed to Herdis' acquisition of the USI Asia Pacific, plus another firm, the General Bank and Trust Company (Genbank) which was to be renamed Allied Banking Corporation. (The Allied Banking Corporation was opened early this month. It has 24 branches throughout the country and is capitalized at P100 million.)

The acquisition by Marcos, the AFP officials and Herdis of the branches here of U.S. Industries happened this way: Westinghouse, a giant U.S. multinational, wanted to sell the Marcos regime a \$1 billion (almost P8 billion) nuclear power plant. The fascist dictator agreed, provided he got a big kickback.

Another condition was that he be allowed to take over the branches here of U.S. Industries, in which Westinghouse Electric has considerable interests. Westinghouse agreed, and on Marcos' instructions, the Herdis Group of Companies proceeded to take over these firms.

Before its recent acquisitions, Herdis already had 24 companies, among them Investment and Industries Corporation of the Philippines, Philippine Tobacco Filters Corporation, Herditox Mills, Technosphere Manufacturing and Recyclers, Inc., and Relcom Development Corporation. It also has controlling interests in the Fortune Tobacco Corporation.

The latest report is that Herdis is about to go into the mass media business, starting with a newspaper.

For its transactions, Herdis has had free access to government financing institutions. Just last year, it borrowed more than P1 billion from a consortium of banks in Europe, with the full guarantee of the Marcos regime.

Among Herdis' business associates today are American, Japanese and European monopoly capitalists and big compradors.

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TWO LANDGRABBING HERDIS FIRMS AROUSE IRE OF NORTHERN LUZON MASSES

Cellophil Resources Corporation and Cellulose Processing Corporation are just two of the numerous firms in the clutches of the Herdis Group of Companies owned by Marcos and his wife, their puppets who lead the reactionary Armed Forces of the Philippines, and their dummy Herminio Disini.

The two corporations are not too big when compared to other ventures that the Herdis Group even now is planning. But they give an idea of the grasping nature and the unscrupulous and oppressive methods for which Marcos and his friends are notorious.

The story of these corporations also shows how the masses of the country suffer whenever Marcos decides, as he often does, to be generous to himself and to his friends.

For a start, the fascist dictator granted these paper and pulp firms a logging concession of 200,000 hectares spanning five Northern Luzon provinces--Abra, Bontoc, Kalinga-Apayao, Ilocos Norte and Ilocos Sur.

From the forests in these provinces, the Herdis Group intends to produce paper, cardboard, boxes, plastic bags and other wood products. Four big Japanese corporations are heavy investors in this venture and so are several big European capitalists.

The Japanese firms are Mitsubishi Rayon, Ltd., Marubeni Corporation, Dainippon and Daicel Co., Ltd.

The forest concession covers most of Abra's 27 municipalities--the upland towns of Luba, Tubo, Boliney, Manabo, Sallabadan, Bucloc, Daguioman, Bangilo, Malibcong, Mataragan, Licuan, Baay, Lacub and Tinog, and the lowland towns of Lagangilang, Dolores, San Juan, Danglas, Lagayan, Langidan and La Paz.

Marcos and the other owners of the Herdis Group initially decided on barrio Mudiit in Dolores as the site of the two corporations' offices and main processing plant. This was later changed to barrio Gaddani, Tayum, with Mudiit as site of the nursery and mechanic shop.

It did not matter to Marcos that the concession consists of the hunting and fishing grounds of the Tinggians, the national minority tribe of Abra, and farmlands of Ilocano poor and middle peasants. It did not matter either that the forests would be ravaged, causing erosion, landslides, and floods and drought, and that the rivers would be polluted all the way to the provinces in the lowlands.

As for the lands in Mudiit and Gaddani, the Herdis Group proceeded to grab the people's lands with the use of the regime's now-familiar dual tactics.

Through Carmelo Z. Barbero, the notorious Abra warlord whom Marcos later made his defense undersecretary for civilian affairs, they deceived some of the people into selling their small tracts of land at the measly sum of P1.30 per square meter by promising them jobs in the two corporations.

For the many who resisted, Barbero talked tough. Accompanied by men of the Presidential Guard Battalion, he told the small landowners flatly that Marcos had instructions to get their lands--by force, if necessary.

According to Dangadang (Armed Struggle), revolutionary newspaper in Northwestern Luzon (Ilocos-Montañosa-Pangasinan), many resisted the regime's cajolery and threats. They told Barbero that the price offered by him--P1 per square meter--was "just the equivalent of two eggs, at current prices".

This was in late 1975 and early 1976. Today the resistance is still spreading, according to another militant publication, Intercom.

In a report from Abra in its May 5 issue, Intercom reported that for those who steadfastly refuse to sell to Cellophil, "the company fenced off company land, thereby denying 'uncooperative farmers' access to their parcels".

Intercom added:

"An estimated 60 hectares bought were immediately bulldozed and levelled for the construction of the main office and factory. Mountains of earth were piled on unsold parcels, cutting off water supply and killing all the crops. Company guards also brought added pressure...on the farmers (to sell their lands) by burning crops in unsold lands.

"Foresters and helicopters, charged with keeping the concession off limits to grazing animals and natives gathering firewood, patrol the area."

If Disini and his master Marcos think they are cowing the people into submission, they are mistaken.

Intercom said militant opposition is gaining ground. In Boliney, for instance, the people have refused entry to Cellophil personnel. In Malibcong, the sangguniang bayan spearheaded a boycott of a "seminar" scheduled by Cellophil at Camp Bulac. And in Tubo, the masses dispatched to Marcos a strongly worded resolution opposing Cellophil and vowing "never to accept any condition offered".

At the same time, the newspaper said, practically all the municipalities involved have sent resolutions to Marcos, through the Abra Cultural Minorities Association, demanding that the whole province be declared ancestral lands.

"At present," Intercom said, "there are indications that the opposition may progress beyond just resolutions. Cellophil has lit the fuse of a powder keg; only time will tell when it will blow up in the faces of Herdis investors, their foreign cronies and backers in high places."

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APP ATROCITIES IN ZAMBOANGA CONTINUE UNABATED

The drunken soldier tried to grab the guitar of the young woman. When she refused to give it to him, he took a swing at her but missed. Enraged, the soldier pulled out his pistol and smashed both arms of the young woman by clubbing them over and over again with his pistol butt.

The young woman is Lovelin Tan, 17, and the soldier is Wilhano Torda of the 36th Infantry Battalion, Fourth Infantry Division of the reactionary Philippine Army. The incident took place in Zamboanga City on the night of last June 3.

Lovelin is from Digos, Davao del Norte. She had been washing clothes to raise some money so she could go home to Digos. Her problem now is that she can't work since both her arms are fractured. She's worried about where her next meal is going to come from.

This is just one of many atrocities inflicted by fascist troops on the masses of Mindanao, Moro and non-Moro alike. And because of these, militant resistance is developing among the people against the uniformed goons of the Marcos martial law regime.

Here are some of the other incidents in Zamboanga City that have been reported to Ang Bayan:

1. Fascist troops shot and killed Pilardo de los Santos of Maasin, Zamboanga City, last March 3. At first the soldiers denied that they had anything to do with his murder. But many people saw him tied to the wall of the PA checkpoint in Calarian, that city, on the day of his murder.

2. Fascist troops killed a worker, Vitaliano Bangalando, on the night of Dec. 9, 1976. He succumbed to wounds inflicted with Armalites.

3. Modesto R. Villanueva was killed by a drunken soldier in front of his family at dawn of Dec. 20, 1976. The assailant was identified as AIC Menelio Pingkian of the Military Police.

4. Julian Expedito was killed while driving his tricycle in downtown Zamboanga City on Oct. 12, 1976. The assailant was identified as PC Sgt. Dario Alconcel.

The latest report is that the martial law regime has not acted on the repeated complaints of the victims' families.

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