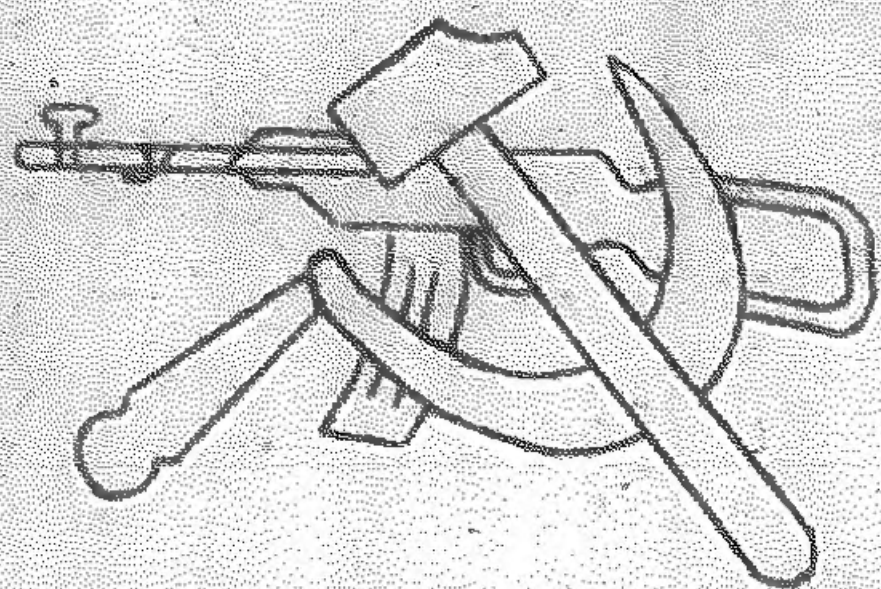


ANG

PAHAYAGAN NG PARTIDO KOMUNISTA NG PILIPINAS
PINAPATNUBAYAN NG
MARXISMO - LENINISMO - KAYSIPANG MAO TSETUNG



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C O N T E N T S

MAY 1: WORKERS LEAD OPPRESSED IN BIGGEST
RALLY AGAINST U.S.-MARCOS DICTATORSHIP p. 1

SOVIET SOCIAL-IMPERIALISTS WOO MNLF,
WANT TO MEDDLE IN PHILIPPINE INTERNAL AFFAIRS p. 2

STOP MARCOS FROM EXTERMINATING MOROS,
MEDIATORS ASK INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY p. 4

CATHOLIC LEADERS OF MINDANAO
ALSO ASSAIL MARCOS FOR BOGUS AUTONOMY p. 7

RANKING AFP OFFICERS IN TORTURE CASES LISTED DOWN p. 8

MANY POLITICAL PRISONERS MISSING UNTIL NOW p. 9

RELEASE OF 23 IMPOVERISHED, AILING DETAINEES DEMANDED p. 10

U.S. GOVERNMENT TURNS ITS BACK
ON \$3.25-B REPARATIONS TO VIETNAM p. 11

THERE'S A NEW REVOLUTIONARY NEWSPAPER IN BICOL p. 12

MAY 1: WORKERS LEAD OPPRESSED IN BIGGEST RALLY AGAINST U.S.-MARCOS DICTATORSHIP

In solidarity with other workers throughout the world, Filipino workers observed May Day by turning out in record numbers in Manila to call for the downfall of the oppressive and corrupt U.S.-Marcos dictatorship.

The workers were joined by urban poor, students and other intellectuals, and church people and other oppressed people in staging the biggest demonstration since the imposition of martial law.

They defied fascist repression as they courageously asserted their democratic rights to assemble and speak out against exploitation and oppression which have been intensified by the U.S.-Marcos dictatorship over the last four years and a half.

Elsewhere, workers commemorated May Day in massive demonstrations. They celebrated the victories of their class and upheld their leading role in the struggle against imperialism, social-imperialism and all reaction as well as in socialist revolution and construction transitory to communism.

In the People's Republic of China, iron bastion of socialism, the Communist Party, vanguard of the working class, took the lead in the day-long commemorations.

The Party's Central Committee, under the chairmanship of Comrade Hua Kuo-feng, rallied the entire Party, the People's Liberation Army and the masses of all nationalities of China to carry proletarian internationalism forward.

In this connection, the Central Committee called upon the masses of China to diligently study and apply the teachings of the great socialist teachers--Marx, Engels, Lenin, Stalin and Chairman Mao Tsetung.

Manila-Rizal was the center of May Day observance in the Philippines. Fascist repression failed to stop the working class from demonstrating its growing ability to unite more sectors of society in militantly exposing the evils of the U.S.-Marcos dictatorship.

In the afternoon of that day, 15,000 to 20,000 workers and their allies grouped and regrouped over a wide area encompassing the Luneta Park and surrounding streets, as fascist troops repeatedly attacked their formations and arrested hundreds of rallyists.

Courageously upholding the people's right to speak, three workers addressed a few thousands gathered near the Rizal monument.

They appealed for the people's united opposition to the oppressive martial law regime which has increased oil prices, demolished urban poor communities, depressed workers' real wages and aggravated unemployment.

Before this, at about 5 p.m., a very large group gathered at the Agrifina Circle bearing a streamer and placards reading "Down with Martial Law!", "Marcos, Hitler, diktador, tuta!", "Stop demolition!", "Long live the workers!", "Down with the U.S.-Marcos dictatorship!" and "Long live the New People's Army!"

Immediately, the demonstrators were surrounded by fascist troops whose ranks were bolstered by goons paid to make trouble. As the rallyists chanted "Marcos, Hitler, diktador, tuta!" fire trucks sprayed powerful jets of water against them, and many were beaten up and arrested.

Following this, more than 100 demonstrators gathered before a restaurant at the park to chant revolutionary slogans.

Even strollers and bystanders were beaten up and molested by the fascists. Buildings in the area were occupied by military agents.

More than 1,000 people were arrested and detained. Eight persons were confirmed injured.

In the face of fascist brutality, the demonstrators defiantly shouted "Babalik kami! Babalik kami!" (We will return! We will return!). They pledged even bigger mass actions in the coming days.

The rally was sponsored by Bukluran ng Manggagawang Pilipino (Alliance of Filipino Workers) as the workers' protest against oppression and exploitation under the U.S.-Marcos dictatorship.

Fearing the growing strength of the workers, the regime began arresting mass activists among the workers and urban poor communities in the two weeks preceding May Day.

However, this did not stop big delegations from showing up at the designated assembly points on May 1, according to BMP.

Raids were conducted on workers' communities in Baryo Boulevard, Navotas, Rizal; Baryo Escopa, Quezon City; and Tatalon, Quezon City, where 23 women belonging to the mothers' association were arrested and detained at Camp Aguinaldo.

In addition, arrests were made at the University of the Philippines in Diliman, Quezon City. A total of 88 persons were confirmed arrested.

Meanwhile, workers on their second month of strike at Engineering Equipment Industries in Mandaluyong, Rizal, continued to receive fraternal support from workers in nearby factories.

The strikers have acknowledged gifts of rice and foodstuff, as well as tremendous moral support, from fellow workers showing class love and solidarity.

On the other hand, the big bourgeois owners of EEI continue to withhold P36,000 in union funds and refuse to pay the wages of hundreds of workers.

The resolute struggle of the EEI workers has encouraged their class brothers to dare to struggle, dare to win.

* * *

SOVIET SOCIAL-IMPERIALISTS WOO MNLF, WANT TO MEDDLE IN PHILIPPINE INTERNAL AFFAIRS

The Soviet social-imperialists want to get a hold on the Moro National Liberation Front to gain a lever in Philippine affairs, according to reliable sources in both the MNLF and the Marcos fascist regime.

The Soviet social-imperialists are reported to have promised military assistance to the MNLF, especially through Jamahiriyah (Libya), to enable them to manipulate the Moro people's struggle for national self-determination.

By blowing hot and cold on the issue, they hope to be able to bargain with the U.S.-Marcos dictatorship.

The reduction of MNLF demands from secession to regional autonomy and the prolongation of the ceasefire, despite Marcos' gross violations of the first and second Tripoli agreements, could be the conditions for Soviet social-imperialism to play a game similar to what it has played in the struggle of the Palestinian and other Arab peoples against U.S. imperialism and Israeli Zionism.

By fostering a situation of "no war, no peace", the Soviet social-imperialists are giving full rein to their mischief in their drive to expand their hegemony in various regions of the world.

For instance, they want the ceasefire in Mindanao prolonged so the U.S.-Marcos dictatorship can pay more attention to the New People's Army and other forces led by the Communist Party of the Philippines in nine regions covering the entire country.

Previous attempts of the Soviet social-imperialists have failed to accomplish their counterrevolutionary objectives. These attempts include the self-defeating surrender of the Laya revisionist renegades in 1974 to ingratiate themselves with the fascist regime and make a combination against the revolutionary forces.

Amado Guerrero, chairman of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Philippines, told Ang Bayan recently that "we firmly support the Moro people and organizations genuinely interested in their national and democratic interests".

"Our relationship should be of mutual support and aid," he said.

Guerrero added: "The attempts of the Soviet social-imperialists to use the U.S.-Marcos dictatorship against the Party and the forces it leads will only have the effect, in the end, of undermining the Moro people's struggle for national self-determination."

It will be recalled that last March 15, Guerrero issued a statement in the name of the CPP Central Committee assuring the Moro people of the right to secede from a chauvinist, oppressive and proimperialist state. He pointed out that the Moro people can expect genuine regional autonomy only within a people's democratic state in the future.

In the statement, Guerrero had also offered further unity, cooperation and coordination, and suggested that the MNLF seek support from truly revolutionary and friendly forces abroad.

According to the sources of Ang Bayan in the MNLF, warnings against Soviet social-imperialism are now going the rounds among the Moro people, cadres of the Front and fighters of the Bangsa Moro Army.

Said Guerrero: "The Soviet social-imperialists should not interlope in Philippine affairs and should not be allowed to drive a wedge between antifascist forces."

He estimated that the U.S.-Marcos dictatorship would not really be able to reduce or withdraw its military forces from Mindanao despite the ceasefire because in the first place, it wants to crush the MNLF and BMA militarily.

He warned: "As the U.S.-Marcos dictatorship speaks louder about the first paragraph of the Tripoli agreement and complains about dismemberment of the country, it will perpetrate genocidal onslaughts on a scale more colossal than before."

The CPP Central Committee chairman praised the MNLF for holding on to its guns, exposing the gross violations of the first and second Tripoli agreements by the fascist dictatorship, and preparing itself against vicious military campaigns by the enemy.

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* * *

STOP MARCOS FROM EXTERMINATING MOROS,
MEDIATORS ASK INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY

Armed clashes have been escalating in Mindanao even as international mediators called on the United Nations to stop Marcos from carrying out his plans to exterminate the Moro people.

The martial law regime is responsible for the collapse of the peace talks held in Manila the other week, they said, adding that Marcos sabotaged the negotiations to resume his campaign of genocide against the Moros.

Warplanes of the regime have strafed Bangsa Moro Army positions in the province and city of Cotabato, according to one report. This is among the latest in a series of violations by the Marcos government of the ceasefire agreement it had signed with the Moro National Liberation Front.

Also in violation of the ceasefire agreement, Marcos has been pouring more puppet troops, tanks and other war equipment into Zamboanga City and other points in Mindanao in preparation for all-out war with the MNLF and its armed force.

In self-defense, the BMA also has been strengthening its own forces and fighting off every provocation by the reactionary Armed Forces of the Philippines.

The cracks in the brittle Mindanao ceasefire have been widening since the collapse of the Manila peace negotiations the other week due to the Marcos government's refusal of the Moro people's right to self-determination and its policy of treachery towards the MNLF.

The talks were held between the Marcos panel headed by Foreign Secretary Carlos P. Romulo and the MNLF panel led by Abdul Rahman Amin.

Also in attendance were the mediators--Secretary General Ahmed Karim Gai of the 42-nation Islamic Conference, and the Quadripartite Ministerial Commission chairmanned by Jamahiriya (Libya) Foreign Minister Ali Abdussalam Treki.

Upon the collapse of the talks, Gai and the four-nation ministerial commission denounced the Marcos regime which, they said, "has shown no concern to reach a final solution".

"...Its goal," they said, "was to gain time in order to prepare for an overall military action against the Muslims of the South, impose a 'fait accompli' policy and continue depriving them of their own legitimate homeland."

They then moved to isolate the Marcos regime from the international community by appealing to the non-aligned nations of the world, the third world nations and all peace-loving nations to "stand by the terrorized people in the South of the Philippines as a service to peace and prevention of massacres".

They also called for the intervention by the United Nations General Assembly, all UN member-nations, the UN secretary general, and the president of the Human Rights Commission to "stop actions of massacre carried out in the South of the Philippines which constitute a flagrant violation of human rights and a threat to the international peace and security".

Pending their report to the Islamic Conference, which is scheduled to meet this week in the Jamahiriya capital of Tripoli, the mediators issued a communique stating their conclusions, as follows:

"1. The reasons for the failure of the present negotiations are due to the negative attitude adopted by the Government of the Philippines which

constitutes a violation of the provisions and the spirit of both the Tripoli Agreement and the Agreement between (Marcos and Jamahiriyah President Muammar Khaddafi).

"The Philippine Government, by adopting such stand, bears the responsibility for the failure of these negotiations and its results.

"2. The Philippine Government shall be fully responsible for the preservation of the lives of the Muslims and their properties in the South of the Philippines.

"3. The Government of the Philippines shall also bear the total responsibility towards the international community for the failure of the negotiations which we hope will not lead to the resumption of bloodshed in the South.

"4. The Quadripartite Ministerial Commission and the Secretary General consider that the Islamic Conference and the Islamic States should assume their responsibilities to take all necessary measures to stop the Philippine Government from exterminating the Muslims of the South."

As proof of the Marcos regime's bad faith, they cited "reliable information (which) has assured with no doubt" that AFP puppet troops in Mindanao "have continuously and significantly increased since the ceasefire".

Gai's and the commission's recommendation to the 42 nations in the Islamic Conference to "take all necessary measures" was significant in that it envisions the imposition of economic sanctions, chiefly the withholding of oil exportations to the Philippines.

Since at least 80 percent of the Philippines' oil comes from Islamic countries, such an embargo would cause severe economic difficulties, and all because of Marcos' treacherous violation of agreements and obsession to crush the MNLF by military force.

The martial law regime's treachery in the unsuccessful Manila peace talks was denounced by the MNLF as well.

In a statement of its own, the MNLF panel said that it tried to work, along with the mediators, for a lasting solution to the problem in Mindanao, but that Marcos' "duplicity and insincerity" doomed the negotiations from the start.

It denounced the regime's sham referendum-plebiscite in Mindanao of April 17 as "the most serious violation" of the Tripoli agreement of December 23, 1976, between the Marcos government and the MNLF. It went on to say:

"The Manila peace talks collapsed because President Marcos has injected extraneous ideas into the conduct of the negotiation and every conceivable roadblock to a peaceful solution to the conflict."

"From the start," the statement said, "the MNLF has extended its hand in friendship and understanding so a just and peaceful solution to the Bangsamoro conflict could be arrived at." It cited its step backward from demanding secession to "just more meaningful autonomy" within the context of Philippine sovereignty and territorial integrity.

"But...the Philippine Government has done everything possible to frustrate any effort to implement the Tripoli agreement....," it said.

While reiterating that it was not bound in any way by the result of the Marcos "referendum-plebiscite" which it boycotted, the MNLF said documented reports showed that not more than 30 percent of the registered voters participated. This attested to the unpopularity of the "referendum-plebiscite."

Meanwhile, documents concealed from the Filipino people by the Marcos regime have been released by IC Secretary General Gai and the Quadripartite Ministerial Commission to show developments before and after Marcos' "referendum-plebiscite".

Days before April 17, Gai sent two cablegrams to Marcos pointing out to him that his projected "referendum-plebiscite" was in violation of the Tripoli agreement and of the Marcos-Khaddafi agreement.

Speaking for himself and for the commission, Gai pointed out to Marcos that in accordance with the Marcos-Khaddafi agreement, "the proposed consultation regarding administrative arrangements in the autonomy must be conducted by the provisional government of the autonomy" and not by the central government in Manila.

He also told Marcos that the Marcos-formulated questions in the April 17 "referendum-plebiscite" were "not acceptable". (These questions were slyly based by Marcos on the original bargaining position of the MNLF and not on its later position.)

Instead, Gai suggested the approval of another set of questions proposed by Khaddafi.

If these suggestions were acceptable to Marcos, Gai went on, then he and the quadripartite commission were ready to proceed to Manila to:

1. Find a solution to the pending questions "within the framework and in accordance with the December 23 Tripoli Agreement".
2. Sign the final agreement.
3. Assist in the formation and installation of the provisional government of the autonomous region.

Marcos' reply was coursed through Foreign Secretary Romulo. He invited Gai and the commission to Manila "at the soonest possible opportunity" in order that "we may be able to discuss the points that you have raised in your cablegrams".

Meantime, the regime proceeded with its "referendum-plebiscite", completely disregarding the referendum questions proposed by Khaddafi and the suggestions of Gai and the commission.

Nevertheless, they proceeded to Manila on the basis of the Marcos-Romulo invitation. This was on April 20. They, the Marcos panel and the MNLF panel immediately sat down to negotiate. But there could be no meeting of the minds since the Marcos panel now wanted to bargain on the basis of the alleged result of the pseudo-referendum.

The talks were ended April 26 when, in the words of Gai and the commission, they "realized that the Philippine Government was insisting (on bringing about the failure of) the negotiations...in order to implement its anti-Muslim plans in Southern Philippines".

Since there was nothing more to talk about, they prepared to leave Manila. But they were prevailed upon, by Marcos and Khaddafi, to await Marcos' return from Japan where he was making a state visit at the time.

Marcos returned April 30 but his regime's position was unchanged. The regime had decided "to stop the negotiation, to disengage itself from all its previous obligations and not to respect its pledges and commitments", according to Gai and the commission.

They then departed for Tripoli. The MNLF panel, on the other hand, proceeded to Saudi Arabia.

Since then, Marcos and his spokesmen have hypocritically mounted another campaign of misinformation blaming the MNLF for the negotiations' failure.

Marcos convened his so-called legislative consultative body, the Batasang Bayan, to a well-publicized special session and reported to this rubber-stamp "legislature" that the MNLF had refused the "reasonable suggestions" made by the Marcos panel and the quadripartite commission.

In the days that followed, he and his spokesmen made full use of the captive mass media to disseminate this fabrication.

Whatever lies he has been spreading on the Manila peace talks are not believed by the Filipino people. Neither will they have any effect when the 42 nations of the Islamic Conference meet in Tripoli this week to listen to the report of its secretary general and the Quadripartite Ministerial Commission.

* * *

CATHOLIC LEADERS OF MINDANAO ALSO ASSAIL MARCOS FOR BOGUS AUTONOMY

The U.S.-Marcos dictatorship's "autonomy" scheme for Mindanao will only mean "more total and absolute political and economic domination and control", according to a group of Catholic leaders who met in Ozamis City recently.

The religious leaders emphasized their desire for unity and understanding between the Muslim and Christian communities in the region, in a statement issued at the end of the Mindanao-Sulu Pastoral Conference III held last April 17.

Delegates from the dioceses of the region met, together with their bishops, to discuss the current Mindanao situation.

They pointed out that the conflict in the region is not religious but political and economic in nature.

This fact is being obscured by the "incredible confusion" created by selfish interests, and the "obvious effort of the press to stir up mutual suspicion and animosity in the region, especially between Muslims and Christians".

"The flagrant manipulation of these feelings and prejudices," the statement said, is being made "to ensure acceptance of a type of autonomy which is merely a veiled structure for more total and absolute political and economic domination and control".

"True autonomy does not come as a gift from above, from the one who holds supreme political power. It evolves from the people. They themselves decide what it will mean for them," the delegates declared.

They stressed:

"The people of Mindanao who are searching for meaningful autonomy are, in actual fact, Muslim, Christian and cultural community members (national minorities). They all have equal rights in this search, and they all have obligations to one another."

The delegates expressed concern over the vagueness of government policies, strategies and proposals regarding the conflict.

On the other hand, in all areas of the "autonomy", the religious leaders reported a buildup of military forces and equipment.

They also noted "the lavish dispersal of public money for projects which are claimed to be developmental, but have not arisen from popular consultation and which disregard the ultimate destruction of our people's natural resources".

It was noted further that the Marcos martial law regime is systematically doling out cash and material goods in order to win support for its projects. This policy "is both cynical and degrading to human dignity," the church leaders said.

They called on the people of Mindanao to multiply contacts between Muslims and Christians which will promote peace, understanding and mutual respect.

* * *

RANKING AFP OFFICERS IN TORTURE CASES LISTED DOWN

High-ranking officers of the fascist Armed Forces of the Philippines lead in the torture of political prisoners in safehouses, military camps and detention centers all over the country.

Political prisoners at Camp Bicutan, in a recent letter to Friends of the Filipino People, an association of progressive American intellectuals, affirmed that among the top officials involved in torture are the following:

1. Col. Greg R. Perez of the National Intelligence and Security Authority (NISA). As legal cover, he poses as an executive of Carmasters, an imperialist-controlled corporation, and writes a weekly column on the automotive business for a Marcos-controlled daily newspaper.

Perez himself interrogates political prisoners and "virtually dictates when torture is to start, stop or resume".

2. Col. Jose Aquino (ret.) of the Civil Intelligence and Security Agency (CISA). Perez and Aquino together supervise torture operations.

3. Col. Miguel Aure, commanding officer of the 5th Constabulary Security Unit (CSU). One of the most notorious torturers in the AFP, Aure is responsible for the death under interrogation of political prisoner Purificacion Pedro in Bataan last January. To "celebrate" his birthday in 1975, Aure's officers and men went on a rampage in the 5th CSU detention area and beat up several detainees.

4. Lt. Col. Laurel Valdez, head of the Metropolitan Command Intelligence Division (M-2).

5. Col. Ramon Salaya, until recently camp commander of Camp Bicutan in Taguig, Rizal. He personally led 150 troops in beating up detainees in early July 1976.

6. Lt. Rodolfo Aguinaldo of the 5th CSU, a bloodthirsty sadist who has been named in many complaints against brutal and inhuman treatment of political prisoners.

Other officers of the reactionary AFP who torture prisoners have been identified by their victims. None has been tried or punished.

Among them are Maj. Arsenio Esguerra of the 1st Military Intelligence Group, Intelligence Service of the AFP (IMIG/ISAPP), Major Recla of the security unit in Baguio City; Maj. Benjamin Libarnos of the

IPCEZ intelligence division; Capt. Pablote, 5th CSU; Capt. Calimag, ISAFP; Captain Ordoña, M-2; Capt. Mito Manlala; Lt. Amores, 5th CSU; Lt. Victor Batco, 5th CSU; Lt. Roberto Delfin, 5th CSU; Lt. Cesar Garcia, M-2; Lt. Amado Espino Jr., 5th CSU; Lt. Antonio Baguiran, IPCEZ/CSU; Lt. Arturo Lumibao, M-2; Lt. Alejandro Flores, M-2; Lt. Castillo, Constabulary Anti-Wareotics Unit (CANU).

Also named in the latest compilation of reports of torture on political prisoners were Lazaro Castillo of NISA, another notorious goon in the service of the fascist state; Sgt. Larry Untayno, 221st PC Co., Rizal PC; Babetto Estrada, 5th MIG/ISAFP; Sgt. Edgardo Cafe, Davao PC; Sgt. Valencio, M-2; Sgt. Matulac and Sgt. Coronado, 3rd MIG/ISAFP; M/Sgt. Tumamak, Sgt. Manlapaz, Sgt. Magistrado, M/Sgt. Divinagracia, Sgt. Dagdag, Sgt. Aguillarte, all of 5th CSU; Sgt. Apud, 421st PC Co. in Misamis Oriental; C1C Pat Ordoña; several gangsters from M-2 known as Panto, Martillano, Abdul and Yoro; and gangsters from 5th CSU known as Bart and Commander.

Reports from the Citizens' Committee on Justice and Peace in Davao City say that a blood-crazed businessman, Francisco Yap, personally directs paramilitary operations against mass activists in Davao. He pays military agents P3,000 to P5,000 for every activist they pick up and torture.

A separate list of 88 military officers was compiled last year by a mission sent to the Philippines by Amnesty International to investigate the torture of political prisoners by the Marcos fascist regime.

In the second part of its extensive report entitled, "Political Detainees of the Philippines", published March 31, 1977, the Association of Major Religious Superiors of the Philippines said:

"More and more detainees are willing to take the risks involved in making their experiences known...The victims...are not bitter, broken persons. On the contrary, they are more often persons with a deep sense of responsibility and respect for life. Their experiences have time and again strengthened them, their families, friends and acquaintances to work to overcome not only the torture, but the evil and injustices these tortures seek to protect."

The masses of the people have a long memory. The people's revolutionary justice will surely exact payment for the blood debts piling up today.

MANY POLITICAL PRISONERS MISSING UNTIL TODAY

Fascist military authorities still refuse to account for a growing number of persons arrested and tortured on suspicion of their involvement in "subversive" political activities.

Relatives and friends of Henry S. Romero, a correspondent of Bulletin Today, have been unable to locate him since he was last seen in August 1976.

Similarly military authorities have remained silent on the disappearance of Carlos Jacinto and his wife, who were last heard from in early 1976. Jacinto was an active member of a national democratic youth organization before the declaration of martial law.

A young mother and her child are among those who are still missing. An eyewitness reported the arrest by the 5th Constabulary Security Unit of Marikina Avenue on June 30, 1975. Neither she nor her child has been produced by the military.

Others still unaccounted for:

Leticia Pascual Ladlad, student leader of the University of the Philippines in Los Baños, Laguna, arrested in November 1975; Carlos Tayag, a deacon of the Benedictine religious order, last seen on August 17, 1976;

Antonio Liao, last reported to be detained at Camp Alagar, Cagayan de Oro City, in February 1977; Tita Lubi; Juan Andres Buenaventura and Johannes Barozo, both of them last seen in June 1975; Manuel Ontong, arrested near the Philippine General Hospital in Manila on November 22, 1975;

Emmanuel Yap, missing since February 14, 1976; Margarito Alvarez, since June 12, 1976; Flora Coronacion, Ador Fe de Vera and Orlando Fideres, all three last seen on October 23, 1976; Apolonia Buenaventura, victim of military torture, last seen by relatives who visited her on November 22, 1976, a day after her arrest by the Constabulary Anti-Narcotics Unit (CANU);

Oscar Sawal, last seen August 1, 1976; Emmanuel Alvarez, missing since January 6, 1976; Alfredo Mendoza, arrested in Nueva Ecija in October 1975 and tortured;

Eugenio Flores, whose arrest on June 30, 1975 by the 5th CSU was reported by several eyewitnesses; Rex Edralin, reportedly arrested along the Baguio-Bonguet road on March 16, 1976; and Francisco Portom, who disappeared while in the custody of the II PC Zone in 1974.

* * *

RELEASE OF 23 IMPOVERISHED, AILING DETAINEES DEMANDED

Political prisoners at Bicutan Rehabilitation Center have demanded the release of 23 detainees in accordance with the declared policy of the martial law regime.

Citing official statements concerning the release of detainees "on the basis of merit and humanitarian reasons", the Bicutan political prisoners called the attention of Carmelo Z. Barbero, chief of the Office of Detainee Affairs, Department of National Defense, to the cases of 23 fellow detainees.

Eighteen of the 23 come from families of poor peasants and workers. At the time of their arrest, many were the sole support of their families. Some are married and have young children to support. Many of them have serious ailments such as anemia, kidney trouble and pulmonary tuberculosis.

Most of them have been detained without charges for periods between two to five years.

The Bicutan detainees also asked for the release of three women whose husbands are also in prison, in accordance with a DND policy covering such cases.

In addition, the letter asked for the release of two young detainees, both minors at the time of their arrest and against whom no formal charges have been filed.

In a separate letter to Marcos, 22 political prisoners at the Youth Rehabilitation Center in Fort Bonifacio, Rizal, told him that he should declare an official policy for the mass release of all political detainees.

The YRC prisoners expressed interest in Marcos' announcement of his intention to investigate torture of political detainees. The detainees said they were recommending well-known members of the legal, academic and religious communities to assist in the investigation.

Since his announcement on January 7, the fascist dictator has made no move to investigate the torture of political prisoners. Instead, more and more citizens are being illegally arrested and subjected to brutal treatment by the fascist military.

Earlier, an internationally known lawyer and member of the International Commission of Jurists announced he would boycott a World Law Conference to be held in Manila this year.

"Practically every paragraph of the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights is being violated in the Philippines," said Prof. John P. Humphrey who helped to write the UN declaration as a ranking official of the UN Secretariat since 1946.

Because of this, he said, he would not attend the international conference. He has also resigned as chairman of its human rights committee.

"I think the conference is going to be a whitewashing operation," he said after visiting Manila to report on the human rights situation in the Philippines for the ICJ. "Nothing will be said about the violation of human rights in the Philippines. I will not preside over such a whitewashing."

The imperialist-sponsored conference is being promoted by an eager servant of the U.S.-Marcos dictatorship, Amelito Mutuc.

Meanwhile, Protestant church leaders in Michigan, United States, asked U.S. President Carter to cut off support to the Marcos martial law regime.

The appeal for complete and immediate withdrawal of support to Marcos was made by the ministers of 111 Presbyterian churches in the greater Detroit area in Michigan.

Many church members in the Detroit presbytery have openly protested against assistance given by the U.S. government to the Marcos regime. They also condemned the deportation from the Philippines of Fr. Albert Booms, a Michigan-born missionary, for helping in the struggle of urban poor communities in the Tondo foreshoreland in Manila.

The ministers also resolved to inform members of all Presbyterian churches in the United States about violations of human rights in the Philippines and the role played by U.S. government aid in propping up the reactionary Marcos regime.

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U.S. GOVERNMENT TURNS ITS BACK ON \$3.25-B REPARATIONS TO VIETNAM

The United States government is going back on its commitment under the Paris Peace Agreement to "contribute to healing the wounds of war" in Vietnam.

Former U.S. President Richard Nixon, in a letter to Premier Pham Van Dong of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, had specifically pledged \$3.25 billion in reparations to Vietnam.

For all his moral posturing and profession of a desire to normalize relations with socialist Vietnam, President James Carter now refuses to honor this pledge.

In a recent press conference, Carter said: "The destruction was mutual...I don't feel that we owe a debt, that we should be forced to pay reparations at all..."

In fact, even if the U.S. government honors Nixon's commitment, the amount pledged would be far short of the actual cost of destruction inflicted by U.S. imperialism on Vietnam.

A spokesman of Vietnam's foreign ministry, in an interview with newspaperman Wilfred Burchett, said U.S. aggression in Vietnam "left incalculable consequences and enormous destruction which no financial evaluation can portray".

The foreign ministry official added that while Vietnam was willing to draw a line under the past and look to the future, no longer regarding the U.S. as an enemy, the specific U.S. obligations of the past should be fulfilled if normal relations are to be possible.

"We will have to bandage the wounds of war ourselves for many years to come," the spokesman told Burchett. "We are sometimes asked whether we consider the Paris Agreement to be still valid. Our position is that it binds those who signed it."

Pointing out that apart from the legal aspect, there is the question of morality and honor, the official added:

"We think that if the U.S. government doesn't honor its responsibilities toward Vietnam, the American people can never be at peace with themselves. Once this is settled, we can go forward on the basis of mutual respect of each other's sovereignty and independence and mutual benefit."

Burchett, whose article appeared in the Guardian, a progressive news-weekly in the United States, gave a picture of the destruction wrought by U.S. aggression in Vietnam. He said a partial list of destruction includes:

All road and rail bridges destroyed; all river and sea ports destroyed; all power stations either destroyed or heavily damaged; all industrial centers heavily damaged, many destroyed; three of the country's six major towns totally destroyed, the others heavily damaged; 28 of 30 provincial capitals bombed--12 destroyed; 96 of 116 district towns bombed--51 destroyed; 350 hospitals bombed--10 destroyed; 530 temples, pagodas and historical monuments of priceless cultural value bombed; 491 churches and seminaries bombed; 5 million square meters of floor space of brick houses destroyed and hundreds of thousands of bamboo and thatch cottages destroyed; 40,000 work animals killed.

Burchett added that over 50,000 children in the northern half of Vietnam alone have burst ear drums because of massive U.S. bombing during the war in Vietnam. And 3,000 of the schools in the north were destroyed or heavily damaged by U.S. bombs.

It has been more than two years since the revolutionary Vietnamese masses threw the U.S. aggressors out of south Vietnam. United under the Provisional Revolutionary Government, the people in south Vietnam completed the task of national liberation with the revolutionary support of compatriots in the north and all freedom-loving peoples of the world. Since then the artificial boundary between the two halves has been erased.

The Vietnamese people and government could speed up rehabilitation with U.S. reparations payments. But whether or not the U.S. imperialists honor their pledge, the Vietnamese masses are persevering in the socialist construction of their fatherland.

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THERE'S A NEW REVOLUTIONARY NEWSPAPER IN BICOL

Silyab (Spark), a new revolutionary mass newspaper in the Bicol region, started coming out last March.

It succeeds Tingog kan Bicol (Voice of Bicol) and is a continuation, according to the editors, of El Busilis (The Spark), newspaper of the old-type bourgeois democratic revolution in the Bicol region.

"And it is more militant," they added, "because it will pursue the struggle against U.S. imperialism, feudalism and bureaucrat capitalism in the realm of journalism and literature until victory."

They also pledged close support to the struggle of the New People's Army and the revolutionary masses of Bicol under the leadership of the Communist Party of the Philippines.

Silyab will be published monthly and will contain articles in Pilipino, Bicol and English.

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