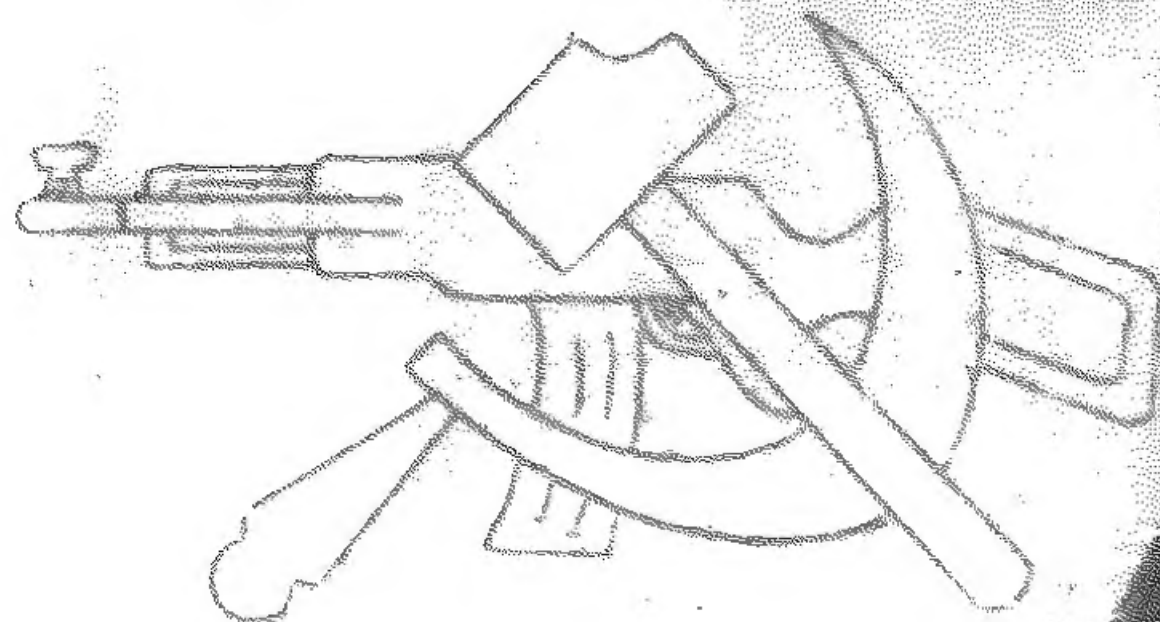


UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES
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ANG

PAHAYAGAN NG PARTIDO KOMUNISTA NG PILIPINAS
PINAPATNUBAYAN NG
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CPP, MNLF DEAL HEAVY BLOWS ON COMMON ENEMY IN MINDANAO

The political and military forces that are ranged against the U.S.-Marcos fascist dictatorship in Mindanao continue to make giant strides despite the military and propaganda offensives of the enemy.

In recent days, the Moro National Liberation Front has further developed its political line by pinpointing and denouncing the U.S. government --the executive committee of U.S. monopoly capital--as the Marcos regime's chief support in its war against the Moro people.

In the battlefield, the MNLF continues to persist in armed struggle as the principal means of achieving the Moro people's right to self-determination which the U.S.-Marcos regime is denying them by force of arms.

The Communist Party of the Philippines, meantime, advances day by day in Mindanao by making full use of its two magic weapons--the armed struggle and the national united front.

The Party and its military arm, the New People's Army, now have five big guerrilla fronts in 12 provinces of Mindanao. They continue to consolidate and expand by pursuing the antifascist, antifeudal and anti-imperialist struggles.

In the past year alone, the NPA increased its firepower by 50 percent in that region by launching tactical offensives whenever conditions are favorable. In this way, the people's army seizes the enemy's firearms while gradually cutting down the enemy's troop strength.

The MNLF's big step forward in developing its political line came recently when the Front's chairman, Nur Misuari, denounced the connivance between the U.S. government and the Marcos puppet regime.

While guns of the Bangsa Moro Army's fighters blazed against the reactionary Armed Forces of the Philippines in various military engagements, Misuari also said the MNLF would persevere in armed struggle until victory.

It was in an interview with an American journalist in Tripoli, Jamahiriya (formerly Libya), that the MNLF chairman assailed the U.S. government and reaffirmed the Moro people's determination to fight on.

U.S. arms supplies

Pointing out that the U.S. government is "very much involved in the war" in Mindanao, he said that "most of the armaments used by the Philippine armed forces against our people come from American sources", in addition to the fact that U.S. military advisers are helping Marcos in the war.

"Without these continued supplies of armaments from the American government," he said, "the difficulties of our people would not be as great and the war would be concluded very soon....Without these continuous supplies from America, the Philippine armed forces would not continue their genocidal activities in the south."

Misuari told the interviewer, Tom Weber of the San Francisco Chronicle, that he had written U.S. President Carter to point out that his government's involvement in the war in southern Philippines was against Carter's own so-called "human rights campaign".

He received no reply from Carter, he said, and "instead, U.S. military supplies now received by Marcos have increased four times".

Misuari also saw a connection between U.S. meddling in the military sphere and the desire of big U.S. corporations to plunder Mindanao's rich natural resources.

Pinpointing the massive oil exploration being undertaken off Palawan by U.S., Japanese, British and Australian capitalists, the MNLF chairman said the country's natural resources should benefit the people.

"But instead," he said, "it is the Philippine government in conspiracy with (U.S. multinational corporations) that are reaping the harvest."

He warned the U.S. corporations operating in southern Philippines to "move out or face the risk of getting caught in the crossfire" between the BMA and Marcos' mercenary forces.

Misuari also reiterated a charge he made at the 9th Islamic Conference in Dakar, Senegal, last April 24-28 that AFP warplanes had been scattering poison in southern Philippines as part of the regime's scheme to wipe out the Moro people.

"...This material has proved to be lethal to the lives of our people, our children," he told Weber. "They poison our water, they poison our crops and kill our work animals."

'BMLO' and U.S. imperialism

While the MNLF chairman was denouncing open U.S. government support to its fascist puppet Marcos, Ang Bayan correspondents in the United States were uncovering secret links between U.S. imperialism and a group of traitors calling themselves the "Bangsa Moro Liberation Organization".

Among the officers of this "organization" are such former bureaucrat-capitalists as Salipada Pendatun, Rascid Lucman and Macapanton Abbas Jr., who bear the titles of "chairman", "overall military overseer" and "plans and operations officer abroad", respectively.

Pendatun, Lucman and Abbas have been repudiated by the Moro people because of their past betrayals and their corruption. In particular, Pendatun has been a willing tool of U.S. imperialism, defending imperialist interests at every opportunity while a member of the bourgeois Senate and House of Representatives.

The Ang Bayan correspondents reported that Abbas has been making trips to the United States to curry favor with the U.S. government and U.S. monopoly capitalists.

While in the U.S., Abbas has also been establishing contact with the U.S.-based Movement for a Free Philippines whose leadership includes such anti-Marcos reactionaries as Raul Manglapus and Sergio Osmeña III. (The MFP counts on U.S. imperialism to remove Marcos from Malacañang so that Manglapus and company can return to power in the Philippines.)

The "BMLO", which also has links with the Marcos regime, is very much interested in a partnership with top U.S. imperialist corporations in the intensified plunder of natural resources in southern Philippines.

They see as a condition for this the "restoration of peace" in Mindanao, with the MNLF subdued and the Moro people reduced to subjection by the guns of the U.S.-Marcos clique.

This explains the conspiracy among U.S. imperialism, the Marcos regime and the "BMLO" to intrigue against the revolutionary MNLF as a complement to the regime's use of brute force on the MNLF and the Moro people.

Their scheme becomes all the more clear by the open support that the "BMLO" and the Marcos regime have been giving Salamat Hashim, a traitor who has been claiming the title of "MNLF chairman".

So far, Misuari and the MNLF have withstood these splitting tactics of the Marcos regime, the "BMLO" and the clique of Salamat Hashim. He told the Islamic Conference in Senegal last April that the MNLF and the Moro people "remain strong and indomitable" despite Hashim's treachery.

The MNLF chairman explained that Hashim had tried to grab the Front's leadership "to preempt his impending expulsion from the MNLF" after his secret contacts and negotiations with the diplomatic agents of Marcos had been discovered by the Intelligence Service of the MNLF.

"...The MNLF and the Bangsa Moro Army, with the overwhelming support of our people behind their revolutionary efforts, are expanding in every direction and winning battle after battle," he said. "Their revolutionary experiences are increasing and accumulating rapidly."

The MNLF's persistence in armed struggle against the U.S.-Marcos regime is confirmed by Asdang (Forward), revolutionary mass newspaper in Mindanao.

Reporting in its September issue on BMA victories in the battlefield, Asdang said Moro fighters had recently been launching successful ambushes and raids on Marcos' mercenary troops in Lanao del Sur, Sulu, Basilan and Maguindanao.

This was partly confirmed by Carmelo Barbero, Marcos' deputy defense minister, who said that during a recent one-month period, BMA fighters in southern Mindanao launched four ambushes, 11 raids, 17 harassments and 50 encounters. In central Mindanao, Barbero went on, there were an additional six ambushes, two raids, four harassments and eight encounters.

Further strengthening needed

While the MNLF and its army were persevering in armed struggle and dealing heavy blows on Marcos' troops, friendly foreign observers who travelled and stayed for some time in southern Philippines suggested a strengthening of the MNLF's ideological, political and organizational foundations.

These observers said this would effectively combat further intrigues by the U.S.-Marcos clique, the "BMLO" and Hashim's renegade clique, ensure victory in the military and other spheres, and eventually win for the Moro people the right to self-determination for which they have sacrificed so much.

A later development--the MNLF leadership's denunciation of U.S. connivance with the fascist puppet Marcos--is certainly a correct step towards further strengthening the MNLF.

Meanwhile, the Communist Party of the Philippines and the people's army continue to advance the national democratic revolution in southern Philippines by pursuing the armed struggle and rallying the revolutionary people to the national united front.

The Party and the people's army fight for the national and democratic interests of the people--Moro and non-Moro alike--even as they patiently arouse, mobilize and organize them, at the same time pursuing the strategy of gradually encircling the cities from the countryside.

People's war has so developed in Mindanao that the NPA fights the enemy not only in the countryside but launches Sparrow (partisan) operations against isolated enemy forces in urban areas whenever the conditions are favorable.

As the revolution ascends to higher levels, part of the fascist military machinery that used to be deployed against the BMA is now being gradually drawn to NPA guerrilla fronts. There is now tactical coordination

between the BMA and the NPA in some fronts as cadres of both forces realize the need for a united front against a common enemy--the U.S.-Marcos fascist regime.

As the fighting escalates not only in Mindanao but elsewhere in the country and the national united front gains ground everywhere, ultimate victory comes into clearer view.

AMBUSHES, RAIDS NET NPA MANY MORE ENEMY FIREARMS

The New People's Army in the Agusan and Isabela countrysides, as in other parts of the country, is growing strong in numerous, small-scale but sure offensives aimed at seizing firearms from the reactionary army and wiping out its troops and agents.

The tactical offensives consist of battles of quick decision hitting isolated and unprepared enemy forces. The people's army makes the most effective use of its small, disciplined forces in areas where they have the support of the masses and whose terrain they have mastered.

In Agusan, the NPA gained at least 10 guns and killed 12 fascist soldiers and informers in various Sparrow operations and ambushes over the past several months. This was reported by Asdang, revolutionary newspaper in Mindanao, in its July-August and September issues.

The most recent action was an ambush last September 15 at Calaitan, about 22 kilometers from the logging camp of the Nasipit Lumber Company (NALCO) in barrio Tungao, near Butuan City. The people's guerrillas killed a PC sergeant, two troopers and the NALCO chief concession guard, and confiscated all their firearms.

The settler and minority masses in the area were particularly benefited by the death of the NALCO guard, Capt. Ramon Bucoy, who had long oppressed them. Before martial law, Bucoy and his men had demolished the houses of several settlers and minorities farming in logged-over areas.

On August 22, Red fighters seized the carbine of a security guard at the Sta. Ines Lumber in Milali and got two more rifles--M-16s--when they waylaid army troops who had been sent to investigate the incident. Four soldiers and one informer fell in the ambush.

The people's fighters made use of various occasions and tactics to wipe out the enemy and deprive them of their firearms.

On May 7, at sitio Calcalon, Buenavista, an NPA unit struck at an enemy soldier and disarmed him while a fiesta was going on. The operation was so quick and unexpected that another trooper at the fiesta had no time to help his companion.

On April 11, in Ginabsan, Buenavista, Red fighters posed as PC soldiers, with some of their comrades acting as "prisoners", to get near a group of CHDF members. The guerrillas ran away with the group's three carbines in an action which lasted only 10 minutes. Also in the same barrio, last March, an NPA team had disarmed a CHDF member of his carbine.

Urban actions

In urban areas where enemy forces are more concentrated than in the countrysides, NPA units watch out for fascist soldiers and agents who are travelling alone and are off their guard.

In this way, Red fighters got an M-16 from a trainee in Bitan-agan, Butuan City, in December last year, and a carbine, grenade and bullets from a policeman whom they surprised in the marketplace at Dulag last March.

More firearms were shifted into the hands of the people's army when it punished two bad elements in Davao City last June and July.

Dante Panlilio, barrio captain of Mandug, Buhangin district, and chief security guard of the Lapanday Development Corporation, was killed by NPA guerrillas during a fiesta in sitio Lapuy last June 18. He had subjected the masses in the area to beatings, harassment and extortion, and had been responsible for evicting the peasants from their lands. A Garand rifle was taken from him.

A notorious CHDF informer, extortionist and bully was also killed in Talandang, Toril district, last mid-July and a .38 caliber homemade revolver confiscated from him by the NPA.

In Isabela, four successful ambushes launched by the people's army from July to October added at least five guns to their arsenal and cut down 12 troops of the fascist army.

These ambushes were carried out against scattered units of the military's Cagayan Valley Command (Cavalcom) even as it was staging a massive "encirclement and suppression" campaign against the people's army in the province.

On July 18, at barrio San Lorenzo, Ilagan, Red guerrillas ambushed and killed three intelligence officers on a mission to arrest suspected NPA supporters in the area. Their army jeep was riddled with bullets and rendered useless, while two .45 caliber pistols, a .380 pistol and several rounds of ammunition were confiscated.

Two days before, in barrio Dalupan, San Pablo, the NPA hit at a patrol of "D" Company of the 21st Infantry Battalion, killing one soldier in the encounter.

Six more fascist troops, this time of the 44th Infantry Battalion, were slain when their combat patrol fell into an NPA ambush at Benito Soliven, Cauayan, on September 9. Almost a month later, in the town of Palanan, two policemen were killed and disarmed of their pistols.

In the face of an enemy with overwhelming superiority in arms and troops, the people's war at present is at the stage of the strategic defensive.

Comrade Amado Guerrero, in "Specific Characteristics of our People's War", tells how the people's army can gradually shift the odds in its favor:

"The content of our strategic defensive is the series of tactical offensives that we are capable of undertaking and winning. By winning battles of quick decision, we are bound to accumulate the strength to win bigger battles and campaigns to be able to move up to a higher stage of the war."

REGIME'S EXPORT PROGRAM WORSENS RP ECONOMIC CRISIS

Will exporting more manufactured goods offset the country's big yearly trade losses?

Marcos says it will, arguing that manufactured exports command a better price and have a wider market than raw material exports.

The fascist dictator boasts about the fact that the share of manufactured goods in the country's total exports has risen from 7 percent in 1972 to around 22 percent in 1977, with the possibility that it may go higher this year.

But despite this, why does the Philippines continue to suffer big trade losses? In 1972, the trade loss or deficit amounted to \$124 million. In 1975, it jumped to \$1.2 billion. This year, it is expected to hit the \$1-billion mark again.

Of course, the main reason behind this trade loss is the continuing and rapid decline in prices of the country's major traditional exports, namely, sugar, copper, logs and coconut, in the international market. After all, these raw materials still comprise the bulk of the country's total exports.

However, considering the fact that manufactured exports have increased in value by more than 730 percent for the past five years (from \$77 million in 1972 to \$640 million in 1977), they should have somehow decreased the yearly trade deficits.

The cold truth is that these manufactured exports have not only failed to offset the Philippines' massive trade losses but have even aggravated them. Certainly, there is something fundamentally wrong about these exports.

What are these manufactured exports?

According to the regime's Central Bank, they consist of light industry goods like textiles and garments, handicrafts, furniture and fixtures, and the so-called "intermediate goods" like machinery and equipment parts, electronic products, assembled machinery and chemicals.

Imperialist control and manipulation

In 1977, the biggest manufactured exports, together with their respective values, were the following: 1) clothing--\$101 million; 2) electrical machinery and equipment parts--\$88 million; 3) infants' wear--\$42 million; 4) gloves and mittens--\$39 million; 5) textile yarns and fabrics--\$31 million; 6) electrical machinery, apparatus and appliances--\$30 million; 7) chemical elements and compounds--\$28 million; and 8) wood and cork manufactures--\$26 million.

At first glance, this type of exports seems to be an improvement over the traditional one, in the sense that the former are manufactured while the latter are not.

But this seeming advantage enjoyed by manufactured exports easily vanishes when one realizes that the production and exportation of these goods are even more subject to imperialist control and manipulation than those of raw material exports.

Local firms producing these manufactured goods are either subsidiaries or licensees of giant U.S. imperialist "transnational" corporations, and they operate under a "sub-contracting arrangement" with their owners.

Under this arrangement, the imperialists supply the raw materials and control the technology of their local plants, which in turn are bound to sell their products to them.

The prices of these products, therefore, are easily manipulated by the imperialists, especially because there is no alternative market for them, not even the domestic one. The country can offer no stable or wide market for these goods. Either the people are too poor to buy them or simply have no use for such products as spare parts of some electronic machinery.

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This way, the Philippines falls victim to the so-called transfer pricing scheme of imperialist "transnationals". Because the trading of manufactures is done between the subsidiary and the mother company, the imperialists easily overprice the imports and underprice the exports of local exporting plants. They do this especially when local taxes rise too high for their profit ends.

Imported capital goods and materials

In doing so, the imperialists do not bother much about the movements of supply and demand for goods in the international market, unlike those engaged in exporting raw materials. They only change company policy.

This cheapening of exports is further encouraged by the Marcos dictatorship, to make them competitive in the international market. It employs such means as depressing the workers' wages, banning strikes and devaluing the peso.

Furthermore, the production of these manufactured exports creates new and bigger import demands. The country has to import in increasing amounts not only capital goods but also raw and semi-processed raw materials.

From 1972 to 1977, the country's importation of such items as textile fiber, textile yarns and fabrics, dyeing, tanning and coloring materials, metal ores, and machinery and equipment parts has increased in value by at least three times.

These are the reasons why the export of such manufactured goods result in further losses for the country in its foreign trade.

Brazil and south Korea

Brazil and south Korea, both semicolonies of U.S. imperialism, give a telling example of what happens when a country specializes in the export of light industry and "intermediate goods" under the auspices and control of imperialist "transnationals".

Since the late 1960s, the bulk of both neocolonies' exports has been composed of manufactured light industry goods. Because of imperialist control over the production and export of these goods and imperialist manipulation of their prices, both neocolonies continue to suffer huge foreign trade deficits, reaching new peaks when recession struck the imperialist countries. (In 1975, Brazil incurred a trade loss of \$1 billion and south Korea \$4 billion.)

The Philippines will continue to experience massive trade deficits because in the main it follows the neocolonial pattern of exporting raw materials and importing finished products.

But even though manufactured exports grow in value and increase as a part of total exports, trade losses will not end so long as these exports remain under the control and manipulation of the imperialists.

The question of who owns and controls the means of production is what basically counts in foreign trade, as well as in any other economic relationship.

BUREAUCRAT CAPITALISTS GRAB LIVELIHOOD OF POOR FISHERMEN

The fishing industry in the Laguna de Bay area is being developed for the benefit of a few bureaucrat capitalists, at the expense of the masses of poor fishermen who have no other means of livelihood.

Prime areas of Laguna de Bay have been subdivided among a few powerful government officials, leaving the poor areas to the small fishermen.

Thousands of people engaged in fishing are in danger of losing their only means of livelihood due to the construction of big fishponds in the fresh-water lake, according to Bangon, a mass newspaper in Laguna (August 1, 1978). The people affected are residents of barrios Lingga, Masili, Palingon, Sampiruhan and Sucal in Calamba, Laguna.

The people's fishing grounds were grabbed and fenced off by the big fishpond operators. Fences of sharp bamboo stakes guide the fish towards the big fishpens, and the catch from the people's baklad or bunbon (small corrals) has greatly declined as a result. Their small fishing boats are forced to go farther out into the deep water, as they can find no more fish near the lakeshore.

Armed men, most of whom are fascist soldiers in civilian clothes, patrol the big fishponds and abuse the people.

Making a careful investigation, the small fishermen found that fishponds in Laguna de Bay are legally limited to five hectares for individual owners, and 50 hectares for corporations. However, most of the fishponds now operating cover about 100 hectares. They also found out these are owned by a few bureaucrat capitalists close to Marcos, who have not even bothered to apply for permits to set up their fishponds.

These operators are directly assisted and supported by two Marcos agencies, the Laguna Lake Development Authority (LLDA) and the Bureau of Fisheries. When the fishermen asked for their help, these agencies rejected their petition and pretended to be deaf and blind to their problems.

One of the big fishpond owners, Narciso Monfort, who is also a member of the regime's "Batasang Pambansa", has even presented a bill that calls for the death penalty against anyone caught "stealing" from their fishponds.

Bangon commented: "...All the laws made by the ruling classes only serve their selfish interests. All this proves that there is no hope in holding on to the present system."

* * *

'MODEL' RICE CENTER PAYS WORKERS ONLY P2.50 A DAY

For a worker at the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI), a whole day's hard work in the fields is equal only to one kilo of rice and two bananas or P2.50, his daily wage.

One would not suspect this fact, if one were to look only at the grand buildings and vast farms of IRRI at Los Baños, Laguna.

Huge funds are poured into IRRI by U.S. imperialist agencies such as the Rockefeller Foundation, Ford Foundation and United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

The Marcos fascist regime constantly praises this institution for the "innovative and modern" approaches to agriculture discovered in its experimental farms.

In reality, IARI serves as a means of further exploiting the peasantry. It developed the new high-yielding rice varieties, such as IR-20 and others, which require the extensive use of fertilizers, pesticides and machinery--all products of the imperialists.

To force the peasants to use these agricultural "innovations" and thus ensure high profits for the imperialist monopolies, the U.S.-Marcos dictatorship cooked up the "Magsaysay 99" program.

Since IARI collaborates in the exploitation of the peasantry, it is not surprising that the workers on its own experimental farms are severely exploited and oppressed.

But just as the peasants are rising up against their oppressors, the workers at IARI are standing up for their economic and political rights.

Through a union that truly represents their interests, the workers are fighting for their right to receive the minimum daily wage of P7, the 13th month pay and other rights.

A hard fight

They are also demanding from the IARI administration more than P1 million as wages which should have been given to them and they have been getting P7 a day.

They further took IARI to court for having kicked out more than 200 workers from their jobs without sufficient reasons.

Fighting for their rights had not been easy. Until now, IARI refuses to recognize the workers' union. But the workers have not lost their spirit and are pushing on.

Said a worker who has been with IARI for 18 years: "We are the ones who plant, plant, weed, put in the fertilizers and pesticides, care for the growing rice and harvest it. For all the services we render to IARI, we are not given the little we ask for. This is too much. There is no other way but to strike!"

Meanwhile, Aswang reported various mass actions launched by the workers in defiance against the capitalists. (See following report.)

Last July 17, for example, more than 100 workers of Dabon logs, Inc., in Iyaw, Ilocos, Dabon City, called a strike to demand that the company pay them on time. They also demanded that the company stop its unjust treatment of them and that laid-off workers be returned to their jobs.

Surigao slow-down

In Surigao City, 35 workers of Pacific Cement slowed down production to pressure the company to increase their wages. In one day alone, the workers produce 20,000 bags of cement, but the capitalist refuses to part with even a small portion of his huge profits.

They started the slow-down last September 5. The capitalist suffered big losses as a result of this.

In Iloilo and Marikina, more than 500 women and workers' wives picketed the factory gates of the Pinalay Miller Ticker Company on August 30 to protest its withholding of wages of the workers.

They timed the picket with the visit of the U.S. imperialist owner of the company.

When the picket was ignored, the mass action was raised into a strike by the workers the next day. The Ministry of Labor was thus forced to pressure management to face the workers in a negotiation.

While the workers were meeting to prepare for the negotiation, soldiers of the 444th PC Company came and arrested a union leader, two workers, the union lawyer and two churchmen sympathizing with them.

Standing firm behind those arrested, the workers and their allies set up picket line in front of the detention quarters. They would not leave until those arrested were released.

The masses and workers scored two victories in their mass actions--the reactionary military was forced to release those detained and the owner of the company to give in to their demands.

* * *

MASSES ASSERT THEIR RIGHTS IN DEFIANCE OF REPRESSION

In the face of increasing fascist repression, the people of Mindanao are asserting their democratic rights and shouting out loud their protest against the U.S.-Marcos dictatorship and all its evils.

In the last few months, workers, peasants, urban poor and other oppressed sectors launched mass actions on various issues in many parts of Mindanao. This was reported by Asdang, revolutionary mass newspaper in Mindanao, in its September 1978 issue.

The biggest and most recent of these was a march in Kidapawan, North Cotabato, last September 24. About 6,000 people marched to condemn the widespread injustices under martial rule.

Three days before this, thousands gathered in various cities and towns in the region to express their opposition to martial law, which has been imposed by the U.S.-Marcos clique for the last six years.

In the city of Davao, the Concerned Citizens of Davao demanded in a widely distributed statement the lifting of martial law and the restoration of the people's democratic rights. This same organization had sponsored the huge rally last June 17 protesting the series of bombings done by Marcos' agents in various parts of Mindanao (Ang Bayan, June 30, 1978).

Meanwhile, several hundred residents of sitio Baybay, Kolambugan, Lanao del Norte, fought back the moves of a U.S.-owned logging firm to evict them from their homes.

The Findlay Millar Timber Company ordered the demolition of 19 houses standing on the site where it plans to put up a treatment plant for electric posts.

Last July 17, the people of Baybay refused to yield their ground before a demolition team which included 70 fascist troopers, intelligence agents of the CIS/HIG, policemen and members of the Civilian Home Defense Force.

Carpenters sent by the company to help dismantle the houses refused to obey orders, clearly affirming their unity with their fellow workers facing eviction.

Temporary victory

With many allies aiding them, the residents were able to force the deputy sheriff to put off the demolition while they awaited a court order stopping the company from evicting them.

By afternoon, the demolition team and the fascist troopers moved in again. They had started to take apart the house of the barrio captain and the roof of a store when the restraining order from the court arrived.

Though they had won a victory, the people of Daybay and their allies realize it is temporary and they must remain vigilant and united. They know that the company will seek all kinds of ways to force them out of their houses.

In other parts of Lanao del Norte, people are also resisting the greedy schemes of big landlords and businessmen to grab their lands. Some of them are the settlers of barrio San Miguel, Lala, Lanao Del Norte, whose lands are being grabbed by Mario Bundalian, a millionaire-businessman from Manila; the fishermen of barrio Lapinig, Kapatagan, whose fishing grounds are being claimed by Federico Santos of Prudential Bank; and tenants of a piece of land in Iligan City which is being turned into a subdivision.

In another development, teachers of the Mindanao State University (MSU) in Marawi City boycotted their classes from June 13 to July 5 to demand better school facilities and the payment of their salary differentials since 1976.

Last January, the teachers had also walked out of their classrooms due to the delay in their hazard pay.

These boycotts were sparked by the teachers' disgust over the corrupt and inefficient administration of the university. The present officer-in-charge of MSU is Ali Dimaporo, a loyal Marcos puppet and chairman of the fake provisional autonomous government of Mindanao. The employees, teachers and students accuse Dimaporo of pocketing university funds.

PLIGHT OF NATIONAL MINORITIES HOPELESS UNDER DICTATORSHIP

The Dumagats once lived near the sea, catching fish and gathering seaweeds for their livelihood. But they were driven deep into the mountains of eastern Luzon as big landlords and businessmen grabbed their land.

In the forests where they have to struggle with harsh nature for a living, there has been no escape from the exploiters and the oppressors.

Logging companies have taken over the forests, appropriating for their private profit and rapidly depleting the wealth which should belong to the people. For the meager daily wage of one peso, the Dumagats work for the companies all day.

Because they do not know the devious ways of the exploiters and are not organized to defend themselves against the security guards who enforce the loggers' will, even this one peso can be taken away from them. A woman told of how, after working all week, she was given only two bottles of cheap wine. Another man labored for a month, only to find out at the end that he owed the company P200.

To work on their own in those parts of the forest not yet claimed by the logging companies is just as hard. For the only way their products can reach the markets of the lowlands is through the middleman, who dictates the lowest prices for the rattan that they gather.

It is tough work to gather rattan, the Dumagats say. At the end of a day's work, one's hands and back are raw from wounds inflicted by the thorns of the plant.

The middleman pays only P30 for 1,000 pieces of rattan and the Dumagats are not even sure if they receive this full amount as they do not count the way lowlanders do.

Abusive soldiers and officials

Most brutal of all are the soldiers and reactionary officials who prey on their women and beat down the Dumagats everytime they take a step to assert their rights.

Once a girl came back to her village covered with blood. She had been raped by soldiers and security guards. "I counted on my fingers," the girl said, "and there were more than that. They were worse than animals."

There was also a time when the Dumagats held a meeting to discuss how they could organize themselves and resist exploitation and oppression. The town mayor sent informers to the meeting and when he heard of their plans, warned them: "No more meetings...or we will shoot you."

Like the Dumagats, the Subanons of Dug, Zamboanga del Sur, have been forced into the remote parts of the mountains. But even there they are not allowed the chance to live decent, human lives. Not only the living but even the dead are violated.

Recently, the ancestral graves of the Subanons were unearthed and demolished when a municipal hall was built on the site.

The bulldozers scraped the bones of their ancestors off the side of the hill and mixed them with the yellowish clay soil. No one bothered to return them to the tribe. Priceless artifacts, many of them made of gold and silver, were stolen from the graves.

"They will surely pay for what they have done," the Subanons said in anger which is now held in check but will surely break out one day.

Suffering deeply as they do, the national minorities all over the country have no recourse but to fight back. As they struggle against their enemies, they realize that they cannot free themselves fully from these until the semicolonial and semifeudal system is overthrown.

Together with the rest of the Filipino people, the minorities are rising up against U.S. imperialism, feudalism and bureaucrat capitalism to create a society where mountains are homes of free, happy and prosperous men.

HUA CALLS FOR 'QUICKER STEP' AS CHINA MARKS NATIONAL DAY

On October 1, 1949, Chairman Mao Tsetung and other leaders of the Communist Party of China stood on a platform at Tien An Men Square in Peking and proclaimed to the whole world the founding of the People's Republic of China.

It was a glorious culmination of the victorious people's war waged by the Party, the people's army and the people of China against U.S. imperialism, feudalism and bureaucrat capitalism. The people of China had stood up at last after centuries of exploitation and oppression.

Last September 30, eve of the 29th anniversary of the founding of New China, Chinese leaders led by Chairman Hua Kuo-feng rallied the Party, the army and the people to speed up China's modernization to enable it to become a modern, powerful socialist country by the end of the century.

"We must further emancipate our minds, be bolder, devise more measures and quicken our step," was Chairman Hua's call.

He made the call at a reception in Peking attended by Vice-Chairmen Yeh Chien-ying, Teng Hsiao-ping, Li Hsien-nien and Wang Tung-hsing, other Party and state leaders, and over 5,000 people including representatives of workers, peasants and soldiers and people from all walks of life as well as foreign guests.

In China at that time to greet the Chinese people on their National Day and to take part in the festivities was a group of Filipinos. Also on hand for the celebrations were overseas Chinese from Hongkong, Macao and Taiwan as well as foreign guests of Chinese descent.

Aside from the reception in Peking on the evening of September 30 at which Chairman Hua presided, there were celebrations throughout China as early as September 29 and on to October 1.

Editorials support Hua's call

On the occasion of China's National Day, Renmin Ribao (People's Daily) and Hongqi (Red Flag) came out with editorials elaborating on why the people of China should speed up their country's modernization and how it can be done.

In its editorial entitled, "Emancipate Our Minds and Advance at a Faster Pace", Hongqi said:

"Through the past two years' revolutionary practice after a series of investigations, the Party Central Committee headed by Chairman Hua has discovered the possibility of achieving the modernization of agriculture, industry, national defense, science and technology and greater, faster, better and more economical results, and has perceived more clearly the road of our advance. The question at present is not whether it is possible to make China a modern, powerful socialist country by the end of this century, but one of realizing this task at a quicker pace than we at first envisaged and of modernizing at a higher level by the turn of the century."

Hongqi added that Chairman Hua's call is "the demand of our times, a militant call, a great strategic policy decision, a goal we must strive to attain and our guide to action".

The newspaper said the call is in complete conformity with the actual situation and is practicable. It also analysed the many favorable internal conditions conducive to a quicker advance, and cited the unprecedentedly favorable international situation--the development of the international united front against imperialism and hegemonism.

"The majority of countries hope to see us strong and prosperous," Hongqi went on. "We should have the spirit and ability to make full use of favorable international factors...so as to accelerate our construction."

A Party, people's army and people who levelled off the three mountains of U.S. imperialism, feudalism and bureaucrat capitalism can, with equal resolve, surmount any difficulty on the path to greater progress and prosperity.