

initalathala ng Komite Sentral ng Partido Komunista ng Pilipinas

Volume XX Number 5

(English edition)

July 1988

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EPITORIAL

MAY GEORGE SHALTZ IS BLALLISH ABOUT THE PHILIPPIDES

What she giveth with the right hand, the left hand taketh away.

As far as presidential speeches go, Cory Aquino's State of the Mation address last July 25 was its usual polanic self — yellow ribbons flying, wor draws besting and contradictions abounding. As she announced the distancement of the noterious vigilantes, she endorsed the fernation of the civilian volunteer organizations. Which, by whatever name — Bentay Seyan, CAFSUs, CVOs — are still vigilantes and seell twice as bad.

That amountment, coupled with the revelation that 1988 "may be remorbered as the year the insurgency was broken," were the highlights of Aquino's exact, schething George Shultz would have been proud of. "I'm sere than ever convinced that there's very strong mutuality of interest here in the security field," said that recent American visitor earlier. "I'm bullion about the Philipsings."

With the "insurgency broken" and the spiral of violence mounting against the left — and the future of the UE bases in the Philippines virtually assured, Cary Aquino and George Shultz can certainly shake each other's bands and three peace talks and human rights out the sindow. In 36 sinutes, the time of her speech, Aquino finished off the "communist insurgency," thus jumping the sun over her defense sinister and after ups Fidel Ranns was gave a three-year timetable for a military victory. The also upersed a classified military intelligence report that the AFP is losing the ser against the quarrilles.

To spice up all the bravado, Aquino went off on her high heres, presching shout the "moral basis for wer," and not losing "the soral segs of this conflict." But what she did not contion — as a disillusioned Aquino supporter, Chino Acces, has pointed out — is the failed moral landership of her government.

And what Cary Agains did not montion in her spench is what is important. There of the gilded rhotoric, the Agains regime's high sural purpose is actually built in a base of representer and corruption. In the rightness political climate of 1700, Agains's norelistic procedings are more presidential modelists for Justifying the regime's permanent hely—"applifiest commonsum, the remait of subject to the commonsum of subject to the commonsum, the remait of the common contraction of subject to the commonsum of subject to the commonsum

Already, in the past six months, four busine rights lawyers have businessed dered by suspected vigilantee working in collission with their military business. All ever the country, there is an occalating pattern of billings of possible involved in human rights sort or identified with the logal left. In fact, in barrely two years, the Applica region has surpassed the forces discontraking a 20-year record of human rights violations against the people.

Must done all this make of Cory Aquitor? Mould it his correct rese to call four a funcist? If Aquitos can avert for ayes from the terror of the funcish rigitarites friendly to her and in fact, give her imprimator to these, are may very east to the or them. Soil George Bhilty. be are funcish funger toward cortainly a lot to be builties about their Soil Cory — the humper of the films of vigilarities, the moral arbitar of corruption, the computer of the UK bases, and most meaning, the biller of the Second corruption bill.

thereby, the AB meed not lone alone over the recent measurement of the benes talks over the lambs of compensation. With Aquino at the hole of power, it's only a natter of time before the talks resume, the happing continues and the nallout of national several over the completed.

Employees of almost all government agencies — from the Education Department to the Supreme Court, from the National Food Authority to the Customs Bureau — hold various forms of protest to assert their rights to a just wage and job security; there is no end to the widening rifts in various branches of government and state — from the Cabinet to the armed forces. Disorder and confusion reign and worsen each day, as these various incidents point to the rapid weakening of the Aquino regime.

The military, the police and the courts, officials of the civilian bureaucracy and the Aquino-Cojuangco family — all are party to, if not the culprits behind widespread corruption. Events confirm the suspicion of many that the legislature, the executive branch and the judiciary are packed with wolves out to aggrandize themselves, promoting only their own selfish class interests. Whatever political and moral authority the regime claims is now gradually being eroded.

Discontent abounds among the people, the primary victims of rising inflation, low wages and unemployment, and the regime's violence and atrocities. Local businessmen are being driven bankrupt, stifled by the government's pro-imperialist policies and measures. All these serve to speed up the US-Aquino regime's growing political isolation.

Malacahang scribes claim that these are mere noisy manifestations of free-wheeling democracy: But the noise has grown to be so deafening it is piercing the eardrums of a growing number of people — even from among the president's middle class pase of support.

The momentum of Aquino rule has reached its peak. If the government in February 1986 enjoyed a high level of popularity and political initiative, today this has plunged to a low. The regime's current political crisis is due to its failure to solve society's basic ills — ills that it has even worsened. It is now beleaguered on all sides — challenged by its reactionary rivals, mired in deep economic crisis, confronted by the people's struggles and threatened by revolutionary advance.

Cornering the loot

The restoration of mechanisms for power-sharing among the reactionaries like elections and parliamentary institutions — has failed to put an end to the wranglings among the factions of the ruling classes. Being at the center of the landlord-comprador state and the principal partner of US imperialism, the dominant Aquino faction takes advantage of its control over the civilian bureaucracy and of state funds to further strengthen its own forces and hold on to power. It has thus been able to push its rivals to the sidelines, but not without adding salt to the already festering wounds of division and discord within the ranks of reaction.

Fower and privilege have been restored to the anti-Marcos reactionaries. Marcos' cronies have been replaced by a new bunch of cronies and relatives—the Aquinos, the Cojuangcos, the Sumulongs, the Lopezes, etc. What now dominates is the landlord-comprador-bureaucrat-capitalist clique of Aquino, diehard pro-imperialist technocrats and fascist conservatives of the Opus Dei, forser henchmen and warlords of the Marcos clique and the reactionary opportunist wing of the social democrats.

These are the elements that have played lead roles in the consolidation of the ruling clique in the economic and political spheres. That the Aquino clique has been squandering public funds through fat salaries and other privileges, control of choice government contracts and businesses confiscated from the Marcoses, and enlargement of their own individual empires is now an open secret.

The past weeks, however, witnessed the heating up of contradictions within the Aquino camp itself, further weakening the latter's base of rule. Instead of being further consolidated, the coalition that brought Aquino to power is being town apart. Earlier last year, the very few genuine liberals and reformists had already bolted out of the ruling camp in disgust over the Aquino government's reneging on the "promises of EDSA."

The widening chasm within the ruling coalition is the result of the maneuverings of Aquino's relatives to tighten their hold over the entire regime and to corner the loot for themselves. They seek to prevent the strengthening of their allied parties in preparation for the coming electoral battle in 1992 that may lead to a shift in the reactionary power arrangement. Jose Cojuangco, Jr. and Ramon Mitra have joined forces in the Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino (LDP) and are moving to install their forces in strategic government posts. On the other hand, an alliance among the Liberal Party of Salonga, the Pimentel wing of the PDP and the Christian Democrats of Manglapus is in the offing, openly contesting the "monopoly of the Cojuangcos."

Scramble for the spoils

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While engaging in the regime's parliamentary processes, the Aquino clique's reactionary rivals continue to hatch and implement their schemes outside government. Most of these anti-Aquino reactionaries formerly belonged to the deposed Marcos clique, now maneuvering to get back in power by peddling the diehard reactionary line and sowing anticommunist intrigue and terror. They create trouble in many ways — through their groups and individual elements within the AFP, through threats of and actual attempts at a coup dietat, through their own connections in US ruling circles, through space, provided them in the bourgeois mass media, through street actions and parliamentary schemes.

They remain politically isolated from the people even as they take advantage of the growing political isolation and exposure of the Aquino clique as "inept and weak" in the face of the people's discontent, and the growing number of fallouts from and rifts within the ruling coalition. That big comprador-landlord Enrique Zobel has thrown its lot with Aquino's rivals, posing the UNIAD-BAYAN as a reactionary alternative, marks the open and formal entry of local big business into the power game.

The social and economic bases for a peaceful sharing of power within the parliamentary framework has already grown so narrow. Those in power and enjoying US support have the strong tendency to get the most of the spoils by using illegal and violent means against their rivals. But the anti-Aquino reactionaries also maintain their own armed forces, within and outside the AFP. And also because the role of armed force in reactionary intramurals has already made its mark since Marcos' time, the threat of armed confrontations among the reactionaries remains — this, even as the Aquino clique retains formal control over and continues to woo the AFP.

Keeping the system in order

The power and authority of the Aquino clique and the civilian bureaucracy are increasingly being eroded by the Armed Forces of the Philippines which has developed as a distinct political bloc. Bolstered by the fascist dictatorial rule of the US-Marcos clique, this monster, which is now the main pillar of the Aquino clique to ensure its rule, continues to expand its role in the political scene.

With the Ramos faction as dominant, the military leadership exercises a strong voice, not only on "national security" matters, but also on major questions regarding the economy, social development programs and foreign affairs, and also as to who to place in or kick out of government. That the military establishment now wields such awasome powers can be gleaned from the wide-spread corruption emanating from its ranks, fascist abuses and rampant violation of human rights. As such, it also poses a danger to the ruling Aquino clique.

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But while the AFF is bound by a fascist and mercenary orientation, it is not a solid bloc. It is also an arena for reactionary inflighting. It is, therefore, not tar-fetched for one military faction to selve power and install a military dictatorship especially in the face of the Aquino regime's increasing political isolation and the continued advance of the armed revolution.

Concerned over reactionary strife, US imperialism all the more heightens its intervention in Philippine politics to push the various factions to unite and cooperate along a strong pro-US and anticommunist line. On the other hand, the imperialists cannot but fan the flames of conflict among the ruling classes by maintaining other factions in reserve while favoring one over the others.

In particular, the imperial lords are further boosting the strength of the AFP under Ramos whom they showered with praises and honors when the latter visited the US. At the same time, however, the US keeps tight links with the anti-Ramos and anti-Aguino factions in the AFP that are ever-ready to carry through their master's agenda. Honasan, Cabauatan and their ilk, backed by the nawks at the Pentagon and State, are not idle. While lauding the "victories" of Aguino, the US organizes, funds and gives advice to the ruling clique's rivals through "unofficial channels." In so doing, the US hopes to ensure that the ruling faction maintains the US bases beyond 1991, wages an all-put counterinsurgency cambaigh, and keeps to imperialist-dictated formulae for economic development. Should the Aguino clique fail, the US would never run out of options.

Tempeds (Solation

On the one hand, it can be said that the Aquino regime has attained a certain degree of consolidation. It has won the support of the military establishment by hopings the military budget and raising soldiers' pay, consenting to graft and corruption within the AFP, unleashing greater fascist violence on the people and giving the military a stronger voice in all affairs of state. It got the blessings of its imperialist master by following the latter's every dictate, and the support of the majority of the ruling classes by restoring and ensuring their wealth and power. On the other hand, the regime is paying a night price in return— its isolation from the broad masses of the Filipino people.

The regime may be enjoying relief, albeit very temporary, from the economic crisis. For whatever brings about this relief now — short-term aid, foreign investments, etc. — only deepens the crisis in the long run. The stringent conditions imposed by the foreign capitalist giants take their toll on the masses of the people in terms of low wages, inflation and more and higher taxes. These, in turn, provide the bases for collective and militant popular struggles not only focused on economic questions, but more so on the anti-people and pro-imperialist character of the Aquino regime. And because the people undauntedly pursue their just struggles, the state cannot but bare its fascist fangs.

The successive killings of human rights lawyers and the second ambush on memesic Prudente, president of the Polytechnic University of the Philippines (PUP) have only pushed the Aquino government closer against the wall. The Philippine government has recently become the focus of attack here and abroad for its human rights record over the past two years which, according to the congressional committee on human rights, is turning out to be worse than that of the 14-year rule of its fascist predecessor.

The German Democratic Republic, Swiss officials and non-governmental organizations, and certain Europe-based international NGOs like the Amnesty International, have expressed apprehension over the regime's sorry human rights record. The ruling clique indeed has reason to worry, for such developments bear neavily on local and international public opinion, and, also, on the flow of foreign aid. Hence, its orders for "investigations," and the capture of suspected police and vigilante elements involved in the killings — all to douse cold water on the already seething anger of the people.

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Towards isolation

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But the regime now increasingly finds it hard to escape responsibility for its fascist crimes. It is rapidly being exposed as a Rightist coalition of diehard reactionaries and reactionaries in liberal garb. Whatever manifestations of bourgeois liberalism are left clearly serve as mere trappings for the intensification of colorial and semifeudal exploitation and fascist repression. Graver economic crisis and more blatant and widespread violation of human rights merely frustrate such schemes of the regime to wash its hands of its brutal crimes against the beogle.

The truth is that any reactionary clique that sits at the helm of state is sure to be bettered by the same intense crisis. US imperialism's attempt to prolong foreign and feudal rule with the Aquino clique as its latest puppet and with bourgeois-democratic emballishments has only boomeranged on the entire reactionary ruling order.

The single biggest and most consistent threat to the semicolonial and semifeudal ruling system is the continued advance of the armed revolutionary struggle. The national-democratic revolution is the main factor that deals the greatest political blow not only on the US-Aguino regime, but on the entire reactionary system. It has remained the biggest and the most significant fosce that charply exposes the bankruntcy of the present regime and the exploitative character of the ruling order, staunchly and resolutely upholding and advancing the basic interests of the Filipino people.

Any advance made by the revolution further weakens counterrevolution as the political basis of support of the entire ruling class for the Aquino clique, thus undermining the regime's capacity to rule and further fueling factional strife. The ruling classes indeed can never expect stability under their own rule that is founded on opp ession and exploitation. THE RESERVE THE PARTY OF THE PA

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HOW GOES THE AFP'S COUNTERINGURGENCY WAR?

Newspaper broadsheets have recently headlined stories regarding a secret military report on the insurgency situation supposedly leaked to Senator Juan Ponce Enrile by an APP officer. The report, according to Enrile, debunks the AFP's claims that it is "winning the war" against the revolutionary forces and that it is "on top of the situation."

Quick to reply, the defense and military establishments at once denied the allegation and stuck to their line, only to later confirm that the report was indeed "authentic" and that the disclusive "affected (them) psychologically." but that "no tactical operations were jeopardized."

In sum, however, the northern warlord and fascist Enrile himself and the Armed Forces of the Philippines are singing the same tune -- that the counterrevolutionary efforts of the regime need to be further bolstered and intensified if the armed revolution is to be defeated and US and local reactionary interests preserved.

This is because the revolutionary armed struggle continues to advance without let-up in the face of the US-Aquino regime's heightened campaign of total war against the Filipino people.

D'A s'estains victories

Despite more vicious and brutal enemy attacks, the national-democratic forces have managed to sustain the advance and are steadily raising the level and intensity of people's war. From the northern tip to the southern and of

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HOW GOES THE AFF'S COLUMN TERMINISTER SERVICE TO THE PROPERTY OF THE PROPERTY OF

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MPA sustains victories

Despite more vicious and brutal anemy attacks, the national-despicrable forces have managed to sustain the advance and are steadily raising the level and intensity of secule's war. From the northern tip to the wouthern end of

the archipelago, the NPA and the revolutionary masses continue to deal telling blows on the forces of reaction. Partial reports received by Ang Bayan include the following:

Marthern Luzon. This July, officers of the Philippine Army's 5th Infantry Division were forced to admit that in less than six months since the start of the year, there were "173 insurgency-related incidents" in the region — "all NPA-initiated." From January 1 to June 16, they cited 25 raids/attacks; 19 ambuscades; 72 encounters; 10 sabotage operations; 10 disarming operations; and over 30 incidents of rebels taking prisoners-of-war (PDWs). Of the 25 raids/attacks, six were on military and six on paramilitary headquarters, four were on police stations and another four were on town halls.

On April 24, Red fighters ambushed elements of the 54th IB on their way to the army headquarters in Barangay Sipa, Sta. Maria, East Flora, Apayao. Killed were an army captain and three soldiers. That same day, a company of the people's guerrilles raided the Bauko town hall in the Mountain Province, killing two soldiers. This brought to four the number of town halls raided this year, the previous ones being those of Sadanga, Sabangan and Besao.

On April 30 of the following week, five FC troopers were killed and one mounded by the NFA in an ambush in Sitio Focod, Bittang, Dupax del Morte in Nueva Vizcaya.

Two PC soldiers who refused to turn in their weapons and instead fought it out with the guerrillas were killed at an NFA checkpoint in Sagada. Mountain Province on June 12. The Red fighters then laid an ambush on the enemy reinforcements. The first truck of a three-vehicle convoy from the 192nd PC Company was blasted by a land mine, killing all seven troopers on board. Nine others were wounded in the two other vehicles.

On June 16, an NPA company bombarded with mortar and rained machinequal fire on a mountain patrol base of the 21st IB in Palanan, Isabela killing II government troopers. The enemy responded by sending in 500 troops backed by helicopter gunships, and later boasted of having killed "32 rebels."

Meanwhile, the Cordillera People's Democratic' Front and the Leonardo Pacsi Command of the NPA in the Cordilleras urged Igorots in the AFP to "reconsider (their) being part of the AFP." Saying that "the rank-and-file of opposing AFP and NPA opposing forces belong to the same oppressed classes," the Cordillera guerrillas, in a statement, urged "our brothers to refrain from participating in the counterinsurgency campaign of the regime."

Central Luzon. In the first week of June, Central Luzon PC-INP commander Brig. Gen. Cesar Nazareno announced the launching of OPLAN TRIAD, a three-pronged counterinsurgency campaign involving civilian-military operations, intelligence and combat operations in barangays and urban centers "to smash the armed and political components" of the revolutionary movement.

Barely a week after, on June 9, NPA guerrillas raided the Pantalang Bago detachment of the 1st 6HG Brigade in Orani, Bataan. Seven enemy soldiers and two Red Fighters were killed in the incident.

Using several public utility buses and jeepneys, the guerrillas posted roadblocks along the Roman Highway in Barangays Gabon, Kalayaan and Mabatang in Abucay town and on all entry points to Samal, Hermosa and Orani to block enemy reinforcements coming from Camp Tolentino in Balanga and Camp Olivas in Pampanga.

In retaliation, soldiers of the 1st GHQ battalion on board a six-by-six truck backed up by a V-150 armored personnel carrier attacked unarmed civilians in Sitio Kabyawan, Barangay Laon in Abucay. They killed a pregnant momen and wounded four others in what 1st GHQ commanding officer Lt. Col. Jovencio Mendoza described as an "encounter with some 50 rebels" in the course of "pursuit operations" against the rebels that raided the Orani detachment. The

barrio folk, however, countered by saying they saw no querrillas around and that the incident was just a ploy to avenge the death of seven soldiers killed in the Pantalang Bago attack.

Southern Tagalog. Kalatas, revolutionary newspaper in the region, reports of continuing victories of the revolutionary forces against the people's enemies.

In the first quarter of this year, the Guezon NPA raided the town hall of San Francisco in Aurora. The guerrillas confiscated sixteen high-powered firearms and three short arms, two grenade launchers, three grenades, some 2,000 rounds of ammunition and other military equipment.

Two policemen, including police chief Victoriano NapeMas, were killed and three others taken prisoners. The two policemen were meted the death penalty for having tortured and killed three Red fighters in 1987 — Comrades Jody, Noel and Rolven. The bodies of the slain guerrillas, later bound by a steel wire and tied to a big rock at one end, were thrown into the sea.

On March 5, the NPA garnered 32 weapons from a raid on the PC-INP headquarters in Abra de Ilog town. Mindoro Occidental. The weapons included an M60 machinegum, 22 MIs and 2 MIA rifles. .22 caliber long-barrelled shotgum and 5 short arms. Four FC soldiers and one policeman were killed.

This raid was the seventh in a string of successful tactical offensives in Mindord since October 1987. From the six other offensives since October, a total of 37 weapons were confiscated, 15 enemy troopers were killed and 14 others were wounded.

Four NPA querriles with short weapons ambushed three escorts of the army engineering battalion in Ibabang Kugungin, Lopez, Quezon last April 5. One soldier was killed and two were wounded. The Red fighters took with them an M16 rifle and 250 rounds of amounition.

At the end of May, Six seldlers were killed in an ambush staged by the people's guerrillas on ten government troopers in Sitio Magalolon, San Antonio, Laguna. The four other soldiers ran for their lives. The NFA confistated five MIS and one MIA rifles.

Last June 1. an NFA company staged a successful raid without firing a single shot on the Magnolia Poultry Farm in Tiaong, Quezon. They disarmed the security force of three shotguns and five .38 caliber revolvers, confiscated office equipment which included a computer set and VHF communications equipment. They also took with them 31,000 eggs which they later distributed to the masses in the barrios along their route as they withdraw.

The raid was a punitive action on the Magnolia Poultry Farm Division of the San Miguel Corporation for refusing to negotiate with the revolutionary movement regarding payment of revolutionary taxes. The NPA had earlier stated their policy of imposing taxes on multinational enterprises operating in revolutionary base areas, as well as punishing diehard class enemies especially those with blood crimes or those who commit intense exploitation on the people.

While the raid was being conducted, Red fighters set up two checkpoints two kilometers apart on both ends of the road leading to the fars. At one end, they seized and later freed two policemen. At the other end, they took four Philippine Army officers as prisoners-of-war (POWs). As of presstime, negotiations are ongoing between the NPA and government emissaries for the release of the POWs.

The NPA scored another victory when, on June 10, 40 Red fighters ambushed and blasted with a landmine an APC in Cavinti, Laguna. The three soldiers on board were killed while twelve others on a six-by-six truck fled. These soldiers of the 16th IB, according to the NPA, were "notorious for theft, destruction of crops, mauling, threatening, salvaging and forcing the masses in Laguna to stage surrenders."

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Again on buly 30, without Airing a single shot, as WiA platoon discussed fully ranged the Paril court half in Laguna, dispressing two policemen and taking four Mid ridley, radio transmissers and piner office soulpoint.

Signal. By AFF company resemt the Private Dear town half in Soranger Lest June 6. The guarrillas annaged opversame forces conting the police station in a ope-time guaratria, billing one visitants and wounding and FE soldier and one policeman. They carted away one bly risks, and Sarand, ben all califier coupleers, a respective and several rounds of assembly tops.

Visayas. The rest in the /imayas has also been challing up quind in the revo-

the tree hally billing two policemen and wounding another and carting every an undetermined miscer of Firstern. After two humes, reinforcements from the Eastern Samer FC Command and the Jabin FC Company number in the area, only to be set by a volvey of gunfare from an NFA h) orwing force in the nearby Darrio.

The following day, in Edulan, Neigros Brimtal, an NFA unit unleashed a heavy load of gundies on a helicipter gunship that Just two off from an arey command post in Sitio horn-moras in Darahtay Enrique Villanueya. Wounded here it. Edi. Sicarah da Leon, Augros Dilental PC commentery Lt. Edi. Palando Chello, Italian officer of Tast Force Superlacoia; and thu others. Soldiers of the ibit Ib responded box late with hospitar and morter fire.

Parasilitary Formand Educated to retrieve a fruct than had earlier been taken and divinited of seven time of fertilizer by the NNN. The IA coldiers and eilitiasen here accompany of a company of the fighters. Sinteen of these were killed and eight were wounded. The quertilias took the troopers fireares, including a in caliber each major. Note troopers backed by helicopter gunships and eNCs came includes later when the fed fighters had already field.

Companies in June II, an APA unit exprising a checkmoint in Magay, regress Companies captures a PC edictor of the 35Ath PC Enegan, and the significant dispersed them and took them at PCAs, pringing to seven the total number of PCAs held or the Magros MFA.

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Minderson. The AFT was forced in Land one of its nellimiters for the first time in a dangerous zone in the rugged interiors of various. Associants del Norte on April 28 to retrieve the muites of eight additions killed and rescue several athers woulded. Thirty similes earlier, these solutions of the Sant IB encountered the people's querrilles in this interior berio in one of the AFF's etemped-up operations in the province. In the other sameuver that followed, the AFF unit spoint itself in a vantage position, firing from stop a shall hill, while the suidigra standard in different directions. A Party cadre attributed the AFF's victory to eastery of terrain, amantage of position, him worste and excellent political work among the people.

On Jume 17, And Fighter's raided a Diff Detectment in Berentung Michillers. Open James, Michaels Derivental, Filling four outlinesses and taking the

latter's Mio rifles. Two weeks later, on June 28, 50 guerrillas overran an army detachment in Tagulo, San Antonio, Tukuran, Zamboanga del Sur, killing five soldiers and two CHDF militiamen and wounding three other soldiers. The NPA garnered five Mio, one Mi4 and two Garand rifles.

On July 11, in Claver, Surigao del Norte, a company of Red fighters raided a police station and a military patrol base killing two soldiers and one vigilante. They took with them five Miá rifles, one Máo machinegun and various office and radio equipments.

In another company-sized operation, the NPA raided a Philippine Army safehouse and several nearby houses used as buffer by the enemy in Barangay Puntian, Guezon, Bukidnon. They took prisoner two soldiers and seven vigitantes, and disarmed two policemen manning a checkpoint near the site.

Based on these very partial reports that came in for the second quarter of the year, the NPA garnered a total of over a hundred high-powered weapons which include M16, M14 and Garand rifles, 30 caliber, 50 caliber and M60 machineguns, grenade launchers, and thousands of rounds of ammunition. These, they were able to obtain through a series of big and small operations — raids and attacks, ambushes as well as checkpoints. Company— and battalion—sized formations conducted at least twelve major raids on patrol bases, military and police stations and town halls, a number of which were successfully launched without a single shot fired. Big ambushes were done using landmines, mortand and machinegun fire, inflicting great losses on the enemy. Heavy damage was wrought on the AFP's war material and equipment which include helicopter gunships; V~150 armored personnel carriers, trucks and communications equipment.

There are those in the fascist armed forces who dismiss these victories of the NPA as mere "death rattle." And President Corazon Aquino proudly boasts of 1987-1988 as the "year the insurgency was broken." Her reactionary rivals say otherwise. The Filipino masses know better.

. . .

THE MASSES WILL DEFEAT THE REGIME'S HILLTARY STRATEGY OF ANNIHILATION

If defense chief Fidel Ramos is to be believed, the revolutionary movement is already in its death throes. "The communist rebels will be crushed in three years," he said. A key to this is imitation -- imitation of the operations of the armed propaganda units or SYPs of the New Feople's Army. Thus, the AFP has created the special operations team (SOI). The military establishment envisions this to be the decisive weapon that will break the backbone of the "communist movement" in the near future.

The SUT is one of the main components (some AFP officials say it is the "centerpiece"), of Balikwas, the "new" military campaign against the revolutionary movement. The other components of this campaign are the nationwide organization of fascist vigilantes and sustained "search-and-destroy" operations in the guerrilla bases and zones of the NFA. The scheme is nothing less than a policy of mass annihilation or genocide of the Filipino revolutionaries and their sympathizers — a policy conveniently hiding behind the smiling face of Aquino, in the guise of upholding democracy and fighting communism. As the fascist Enrile so aptly put it, the campaign will turn out to be a "total bloody war."

Despite the glowing pronouncements and confidence of the Aquino regime and the AFP in their latest Frankenstein, the internal aspects of Balikwas and its main pillars carry the seeds of their own destruction. Moreover, the revolutionary movement now has the capability to launch counter-campaigns to the the tangent and intensified counterrevolutionary scheme of the US-Aquino regime.

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in closer blude, the essential character of the per completionary strategy is an important men. The strategy is within the transmit of fital war enter comming political, entitlery, ethicute and paychildical warrare, while each enter are increased on the entities; character to much the revolutionary expected, there is an allower to strike the proper commination of the various comments to obtain as this results. And especially upon the accommise to power of the incommiser to present a transmiser for the entitle of the commiser to power of the incommiser to provide in the drive to produce the collision beats of the revolutionary stringgle.

In terms of military strategy, the regime attempts to seriphic policical ingredients on the operations of AFF combat units, with the aliand "winding the Dalmanna". The SOF you into somethic of blending

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attempt to really the sound the endure this enter this recount to the community, and then the recount to the community, and then there rollinging the content of "interpreting" with the masses. They do civic action like providing free endicine and commed goods, and dental services. Then attempt to the people mish at the terminal providing and contains the people mish at the terminal provider.

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Finally, the BUT organizes the mexico into familiar vigilants and intelligence groups which the regime new calls civilian tellipters or apprehensive flow the bloodshirsty flow flows. The GMDs, together such the DF-GMs tricizen areas forder pageranical materiand and some acceptances of the BUT, fore the "stay-benied-force" which ensures that the resolutioneries will not be able to "recover" the area. Loop the organization of the "range, dayso" and the DF-GM, the barrio is then considered maintained. Wen the BUT leaves the place, the MFP expects the various comment branches and apencies to chee in with their covalors of our agent.

SOTs are full of bottmise. According to Major-General Martant Adalem, from Detober 196" June 1118 year. 4 w barangave were neutralized," and "29,000 to 30,000 tass act. 155, along with NFA regulars were won over to the government side" because of the work of the SOTs. In fact, these "successes" formed bart of the bases of Aquino's statement that 1987-1988 "way be remembered as the year the insurgency was proken."

As the mass base of the revolution is gradually being "won back" by the state through the SDIs, the regular forces of the AFP wage their all-out campaign to "search and-destroy" the armse regulars of the NFA. In the guerrilla bases, the AFP's plan is to jure and to the down the guerrillas to sustained righting to deprive the latter of the opportunity for political work, like propaganda, education and socio-economic work (to support the people's livelihood), when this succeeds, the time is ripe for the SDIs to commence operations with the aim of further eroding the base of support of the revolution.

Grigins

The origins of the SOT can be traced back to the year 1985, under the US-Marcos dictatorship. While the revolutionary forces in certain areas of Mindonao were addressing the problem of infiltrators within their ranks, SOT units were deployed by the Philippine Aray to Northern Mindanao under former Brig. Gen. Mariano Adales. These were the prototypes of the present SOTs which, according to the AFP, were the cause of the NPA's defeats in the area. For instance, because of these SOTs, the enemy claims that "200 NPA fronts" (sic) have been reduced to 36.

It can be said, however, that it was mainly Colonel Victor Corpus who elaborated and put on paper the concept of the SOT, as well as the new strategy Balikwas. Corpus' ideas on the subject are contained in his forthcoming book Alternative Strategies.

Corpus based his ideas largely on his "knowledge of the enemy" — the New People's Army — of which he was a finer commander. Though he criticizes the old "search and testroy strategy, this in essence is what he also recommends. His only addition is: but equal stress on "winning the hearts and minds" of the people.

According to Loi. Corpus, the NEW S protracted people's war can be easily defeated through a war of quix decision through nationwide simultaneous sustained variatory campaigns. He repeats Ramos' timetable: three years. The strategy has two phases:

One. The phase of reprientation, "reorganization" and removing "baggages" from the AFP or yamilation to effectively respect to the new strategy. This phase incorporates the formation of small AFP units — the "commando bettlegroups" this is now Corous terms the SO(s) that will be responsible for socia-political measures. These will form secret intelligence groups in the barrios. From the way Corpus dictures these commando battlegroups, and from the qualifications he sets for these, the good colonel dreams of transforming the troops of the mercenary AFP into revolutionaries — disciplined, sacrificing, selfless, etc. — like the Red fighters of the MFA.

Two. The faunching of sustained military campaigns in all major querilla bases and zones until these are destroyed and the ravolutionary forces are defeated. In every military campaign, he offers the tactic of "gradual constitution" and gradually parrowing down the area covered by the querilla base with commando battlegroups organizing among the revolution's mass base "in raverse." This means, from the periphery of the base area on to the center, like a moose slowly being tightened until the revolution is strangled to death. Simultaneously, the decisive blow is dealt on the main forces of the people's arey.

Current - a ements coming from the AFP and the US Aquino regime on the SOTs are full of optimism. Actualing to Major-General Mariano Adalem, from October 1987 to June this year. And barangays were "neutralized." and "29,000 to 30,000 mass activists, along with NPA regulars were won over to the government side" because of the work of the SOTs. In fact, these "successes" formed part of the bases of Aquin 18 statement that 1987-1988 "way be remembered as the year the insurgency was rosen.

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But Corons where that your 'alternative strategy suit success only if it is soughed with the resolution of the successital perchange of the people, central to entire to the inclinantation of sepurne land resonant Last June 10, Applied abounded to have nescee his advices she signed (its ise the take agranual real return toda).

The idea of counterpointing a tractionary alternative to the revolutionary political intractionary of the suthede of work land even earner of the entire, the supplication — but he are not the hearts and sinds, of the people — next also been approximated earlier by the US and Its numbers in Vietnam against the revolutionary Vietnamans bandle. During the Vietnam against the revolutionary Vietnamans bandle. During the Vietnam against the revolutionary Vietnamans bandle.

The SIT's Intercoupers were known by different names — paralleation cadres, political action femal, resultationary development radies, civilian expens uniques, and others. They lived asset the masset, undertook clear, prosches to the people on the "exils of consumings" and the "blessings of dear-cracy," organized caramiditary diston, vigilantes and death aquack — lite, for instance. Fivilian irredular Defense Fronties, Paople's Action Teams and Provincial Accordance of the National Liberation front are innocest civilians alike — were vided in the bruy of viginors perpetraled by these paraellites, groups.

But in the end, with the close thomeration between the people and the revolutionary has and thromery free continuation of various forms of erest and unarrase structures, the revolutionary Violancese people persons the "pacification casting castings" and cruenes these reactionary intrastructures. In early interest, the angry and importing eaces themselves ested but populationary to the seabers of num "pecificalities" teams.

Strategy without just cause

At the nutset, the new dilitary strategy Ballawan can contune the easies and indict great decade on them and on the revolution. This scheep is priestly a silitary cambaign of availability of the appropriate to launch out-approut billings and acle of Vinterior cannot be underextinated.

This year alone, in the process of their "warrinald-pestroy" operations, the armos forces indiscriminately possible, welled and thereo subjected NFR bases to Fangasidan, faithment cayed, Guerum, Megros and cose provinces in hundreds, fam' people were tolled. The was the experience in Tunhiley, National Fangasidan last March, Hodis berratum were forced to evacuated lives and property, including the posto-political departmentations of the sasses were destroyed. The enemy poet out evacuate the nemple to definite centers, not even to healets, engages. Destroy the operation of the centers, not even to healets, engages.

areast revolutionaries ingether with their each base in the country side, solertive willings of legal and shinkings nationalists is their instrument for destroying the legal designable solvesoft in the titles.

The restitution of equipment can indeed be subscrabble to the intensited editory, political and psychological attacks of the enery of it has internal employees, deeply thereas problems in lack of consultation among the regulation tippar, ranks and its east himse attendion of the people from the regulation due to the launching of addition actuals without one report for their pullitual places and teplications, and to rough earners and the non-orderation sivile or size ones. There, if one unchecked, will provide ordered for the energy to exploit.

what may, then. Addise counts of as a "victory" of the Philippine Arev in the thern diminuous was not the result of the deployment of Sile to the area in INE. It was not necessar of the internal problems broken about by the

recently the percentage of the program of the AFE) and the ensuling entitlement of contagn commander in humaling the program, The program, has now been decided and the revolution in well on the WAY to receivery. (See App Sayan John Annual Health under the street and at the BOT's and the Vigilantes in the BOT's and they are the Vigilantes in the BOT's and the Vigilantes in the BOT's and the Vigilantes in the BOT's and they are the Vigilantes in the BOT's and the Vigilantes in the BOT's and they are the BOT's and the Vigilantes in the BOT's and V

counterrequiphed analysis, the revolutionary movement will defaut the now counterrequiphed by successful the manufactual of the manufactual for the people of the people of the people of the comment. The revolution wields the powerful meapon of people's was that destroys now purity the pillers of this scheme but also the very foundation of the semicolonial and semifeudal order.

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At present, enough whencen is alkern firstly, to faunching countercampaigns in the set the enaching significance destroying the SGG intilliding significance destroying the SGG intilliding significance are deep throughout a substitution of wilitary actions, organizing within the SUP and confincing the regime's interest number to participate in with profile editions, operations, account on resolutionary ranks are definit constitutioned through identically and policipal equations, allies are definit constitutions are definited to constitutions are definited to constitutions and policipal equations, allies from the resolution of the masses by fully implementing the resolutionary expectation and programs.

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The internal character of the US-Amazon ranthum icenty, so well as the unjective conditions assisting in factors that are published 3471/4425 to the partition of mixture.

First, the AFR is the prolone nontruesed of the recreative state. Its (arces have seen to sined to light and to will. Aside ince this, the AFR is decay regred in the exceptor trinition. Then ghost nistory, every has been the force that has hartinged its slavishness to its importalist easter and to the local ruling classes. The superior to the oppression of the fillular easter. This is why, despite the frequery revolution, and the same sent the sent and the first and the fillular easters of the editory on "nistar rights," the AFP's access and triens applied the people continue. How can it ever how to "win the hear's and editor' of the needle?

Further, divisions within the AFP result in different straides and scatterms efforts in fighting the national-describable resultation. The SOT concept, for instance, is not fully appoint even saming the higher scheluss of the AFP.

Sectord, the LE-Agillais relition, by the very character and composition, complete and will never respond to the desert especial decard for genuine land refore. The persons will therefore decall fertile grains for areas struggle and persons continuous.

pour in its emaper funits for the topological true investigation of the course graft and correspond to request from the highest in the limest rules of the civilian and ellipsely personners, whatever imposs are alighted to counter theory personners, whatever imposs are alighted to counter theory entry are cated up by the presdy to easier that

Finally, the enemy's program to "win the hearts and minds" of the people suffers from a fundamental defect. A number of the people may be lured into joining the "counterinsurgency," many revolutionaries may be killed. A few guerrilla bases may be destroyed and SUTs may be able to organize hundreds of vigilante groups, bogus peasant associations and other political structure. But the people have one big question: why and for whom will they oppose the NPA and the revolutionary movement" For Aquino, a big landlord? For the fascists" A basic element is absent in the US-Aquino regime's strategy, an element that can only spring from a genuine concern for the people: a just cause.

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MINI-MARSHALL AID PLANS MEEPING THE MORIBUND SYSTEM AFLOAT

"Aude us a seas by which the United States can exert political and sconcelic blackeal over other countries."

And is used to force other countries to grant bases and other facilities for use by U.S. edilitary forces.

Aid: heips to keen the pair countries personally in debt and thus perpetuates their state of backwardness.

Aids does not lead to the growing independence of the pearer countries but makes they acre dependent.

And: is a means of maintaining tyranaical oligarchies in position of power and through them suppressing every movement that attempts to liberate the people from foreign and local oppression.

Alde is a tool for economic, political and military domination of other countries.

Add is a FRED!

Felix Greene ...

For the past several months, the proposed Mini-Marshall economic and plan for the Philippines has been hugging the front pages of the newspapers. Prospective donor countries led by the United States and Japan have already signified their support for the plan. This July, support for it was further boosted after the visit of US Secretary of State George Shultz, where he got the Aquino government's reassurance on the retention of the US military bases beyond 1991.

Banking on the aid plan's approval. Aquino has already created a special committee composed of representatives from the government and private sectors that will prepare the list of economic programs and projects. The regime calls the new plan "multilateral" or "polysectoral" aid, if only to hide the truth that it is a US imperialist-initiated scheme. To keep up the coverup, Aquino stated that the proposed plan should not have any "strings" (i.e. US bases) attached to it and that the "initiative for the economic recovery should come from the filipinos themselves and not the foreigners."

In truth, however, the new aid plan's rationale hinges on the renewal of the US Military Bases Agreement which is currently up in review. US officials made this transparently clear from the outset of the proposal. In November 1987, four bipartisan US legislators, who are known Aquino supporters, sent a letter to President Reagan urging him "to take the lead in putting together a multi-national, multi-year 'Narshall Plan' for the Philippines." The letter directly linked the new plan to the importance of the bases to US strategy: "Their (US bases) loss, due to political turmoil or an NPA victory, would result not only in forced relocation to less desirable base locations at a cost well exceeding \$10 billion, but in a serious reduction in US ability to secure sea lanes vital to a forward deployed US strategy in the Hestern Pacific."

Interestingly, the total amount of the Mini-Marshall Plan is estimated at \$10 billion for the five-year period 1988-1992. This amount is apparently intended to complement and boost the aid package (or "rent" as government officials insist on calling it) the Aquino regime would be getting once the bases agreement is ratified. Evidently, in the new economic plan, the US has found a convenient leverage to press the regime to grant more concessions in the ongoing bases review.

Serving Imperialist Interests

In this regard, the proposed Mini-Marshall Plan, to which the floundering Aquino regime has been clinging to like a drowning man, is no different from its forerunner. Proposed by then US Secretary of State George C. Marshall to President Harry Truman on June 5, 1947, the original Marshall Aid Plan was a long-term program to revive the capitalist economies of Western Europe which included its vanguished enemy West Germany after World War II.

The Marshali Plan for Europe from 1948 to 1952 was meant to serve the political, economic and military interests of the United States which emerged as the strongest imperialist country after the war. Through the massive aid plan, the United States was able to maintain and strengthen its influence on the capitalist countries of Western Europe. It successfully kept Western Europe within the capitalist orbit and prevented the spread of socialism. Above all, it enabled the United States to project permanently its military power in the area through the establishment of military bases all over Western Europe. The threat of Russian communist expansion was used to justify the establishment of US military bases, ushering in the Cold War, a period of intense anti-communist hysteria.

Forty years later, the proposed Mini-Marshall Plan for the Philippines carries the same vested objective of US imperialism. This time, however, the plan will be funded not only by the United States but also by Japan, the European Economic Community, Canada, Australia, New Zealand and the ASEAN countries. In this way, the US makes its allies in Asia and elsewhere bear the financial costs too of shoring up a US neocolony which hosts US military bases "vital for regional security." By helping the Aquino regime along, Japan and other US allies are guaranteed the protective security umbrella of the US bases over their economic and political interests in the Asia-Pacific region:

Faced with huge budget and trade deficits and a gigantic foreign debt, thus has US imperialism cunningly used its bases in the Philippines to convince its allies to support the Mini-Marshall Plan for the Aquino regime. Japan, which has been expanding its influence on the underdeveloped but natural resources-rich countries of Asia, is expected to provide at least 50% of the aid package.

In pursuit of their own self-interests, other US allies have given their go-ahead to the plan. Last June 19-21, the aid plan was officially endorsed by the Toronto Summit Meeting of the seven highly industrialized countries. On July 5, the ASEAN Ministerial Conference followed suit, to help keep the beleaguered Aquino regime affoat amid a severe economic crisis and surging revolutionary movement. The amount of aid that will be funnelled to the Philippines is expected to be over and above the existing \$1 billion aid being received annually from various multilateral and bilateral sources.

Intensifying Economic Plunder

But whether that aid will be of any benefit to the Philippines is extremely doubtful. As in the original Marshall Plan, if there is any country that stands to benefit the most, it will be the United States.

The original Marshall Plan was economically beneficial to the US economy. The Second World War had stimulated an increase in industrial production in the United States. By the end of the war, the US government was facing the

grim prospect of another depression. Domestic demand could no longer be expected to absorb the volume of products churned out by the American industries. The US government had to look towards the overseas market in order to maintain its rate of industrial capacity. Through the Marshall Plan, Western Europe became a lucrative market for US surplus commodity and industrial goods and a safe and profitable area for US surplus capital.

In fact, the plan later became a model for the other aid plans launched by the United States in other parts of the world. In Asia, US imperialism also provided economic aid to the countries devastated by war. Japan, while being the enemy during the war, was the major recipient of this aid. Unlike the experiences of Europe and Japan, aid to the Philippines was aimed at preserving the semicolonial and semifeudal system. US aid to the Philippines after the war was used by the United States to extract onerous treaties such as the Bell Trade Act (including the Parity amendment), US-RP Military Bases Treaty and the US-RP Military Assistance Pact.

Under the subservient regime of Corazon Aquino, history will repeat itself with the Mini-Marshall Plan. Even now, the Aquino government, in wanton disregard of the national interest, has instituted a series of economic measures dictated by the IMF-World Bank during the talks on the debt rescheduling program. These include the Omnibus Investment Code of 1987, the debt-to-equity swap, the privatization policy and import liberalization, all of which have provided a more favorable climate for foreign investors through more incentives and less government regulations.

To win the favorable support of the donor countries and multilateral institutions like the World Bank and Asian Development Bank for the new aid plan, the government has officially drawn up a list of programs and projects which they wish to support. Priority projects are infrastructures (roads, ports, energy, water, airports, communications, etc.), agribusiness, industrial zones, export-processing zones and labor-intensive medium—and small-scale industries. The economic aid from the proposed mini-Marshall plan will be in the form of grants, concessional loans (loans with lower interest—and longer repayment period), foreign investments, better trade terms for Philippine products in the donor countries, debt-equity swap, debt relief and public and private import assistance.

However, a closer look at the proposed mini-Marshall Plan will reveal its fundamental defect. The economic policies adopted by the Aquino regime to min appreval of the aid plan will only open the economy to greater imperialist plunder and domination. These are the same policies implemented by the Marcom regime which resulted in economic disaster.

According to the Aquino regime, the aid plan will provide debt relief. But the fact is, concessional loans from the aid plan will only be used to pay the principal and interest on the maturing loans. For this, NEDA projects that the amount of \$7 to \$8 billion in new loans is needed in the next five years.

The next generation of Filipinos will not be spared from the dire effects of the aid plan as new loans will further increase the country's foreign debt which now stands at \$28.6 billion. Because of the regime's policy guaranteeing "automatic appropriation" for debt service in the annual budget, the Filipino people will be burdened by the annual debt servicing of the mounting foreign debt for many years to come. And the government, with an estimated average annual debt servicing of about \$3.47 billion, will continue to suffer budgetary deficits. As it borrows new loans to ease the budget deficit, these will further bloat the foreign debt to about \$34.8 billion by 1992 — trapping the country in an endiese debt cycle.

Government technocrats may that the aid plan can help speed up economic growth. However, by giving donor countries the right of prior approval, the aid plan will allow them to dictate on the economic policies of the Aquino government. As before, these economic policies will only further firm up US

imperialist control over the country, prevent nationalist industrialization and retard the overall development of the economy. While the massive aid may provide the Aquino regime a breathing spell from the current economic crisis, in the long run it will keep the Philippines in a perpetual state of economic crisis and underdevelopment and thus ensure its dependence on the imperialist countries.

The plan has classified foreign investments and debt-to-equity swap as aid. But these will only lead to greater incursion of foreign interests on the economy, stunt the development of local capital and prevent nationalist industrialization. For instance, foreign monopoly capitalists experiencing high costs of labor in their respective countries can lower their production costs by relocating their labor-intensive, export-oriented industries to the Philippines which has cheap labor. In the process, they will reap huge profits which are then siphoned out of the country because of the regime's liberal terms on profit repatriation.

The so-called better trade terms and commodity loans will further foster the colonial trade pattern between the Philippines and the imperialist countries. Raw materials and agricultural goods from the Philippines will continue to be bought at low prices by the imperialist countries, while the Philippines remains a dumping ground for surplus commodity and industrial goods from the imperialist countries. The regime's export-oriented policy has only made the Philippines more dependent on the external market. Meanwhile, the import liberalization policy adopted by the Aquino, regime is already facilitating the unregulated entry of non-essential goods from the capitalist world, worsening the country's trade deficit.

Domestically, the aid plan if implemented will benefit mainly the big bourgeois-compradors and landlords due to their long-established economic ties with the foreign monopoly capitalists. Corrupt politicians and government bureaucrats and their relatives and business contacts will also benefit from the various independent and government projects to be funded by the aid plan ail over the country.

While the aid plan may temporarily ease unemployment in areas where infrastructure projects and new industries are put up, this could be offset by the expected closure of Filipino-owned industries due to the unregulated entry of imported products that compete with the products of local manufacturers.

The artificial growth as shown by GNP figures does not reflect the real conditions of the broad masses. The problem of exploitation and inequality among the majority of the Filipino people will continue. In fact, the aid plan will lead to greater exploitation and repression of workers as the Aquino regime maintains the low wages policy and "industrial peace" by adopting measures to repress striking workers. The Filipino masses will be weighed down further by the spiralling prices of consumer products due to inflation caused by the expected expansion in the money supply and the devaluation of the peso. In the end, the mini-Marshall Plan will aid not the Philippines but the donor countries.

Preserving the Reactionary Ruling System

Contrary to the statements of the US government officials, the proposed aid plan is not really intended to stabilize "democracy" in the Philippines. US imperialism cannot hide its record of providing massive assistance to dictatorial regimes in the countries of Latin America, Africa and Asia. From 1972 to 1985, the Marcos fascist regime received about \$10 billion worth of official development assistance (ODA) from multilateral sources such as the World Bank and Asian Development Bank and bilateral sources led by Japan and the United States. A big portion of this — BSX or \$8.8 billion — came in the form of loans. The Marcos fascist regime used this to launch a brutal and bloody suppression campaign against the Filipino people.

With the experience under the Marcos dictatorship still fresh in their minds, more perceptive and critical Filipinos fear that the Mini-Marshall Plan will go the same way as the previous aid packages. To be sure, the main consideration for the new aid plan is the preservation of the existing semi-colonial and semifeudal system in the Philippines. Aid is intended to ensure that state power in the Philippines remains in the hands of the pro-imperialist and reactionary US-Aquino regime. US and Japanese imperialism and their allies hope that massive economic aid will provide the Aquino regime the necessary funds to sustain its all-out war against the anti-imperialist and democratic forces in the Philippines.

Since the aid plan will ease the pressure of the budget deficit due to infusion of new funds from abroad, the military establishment can expect a larger share of the budget to sustain its counterinsurgency campaign. More funds from the annual budget will be appropriated to beef up the military and to fund the organization of the Citizens Armed Forces Geographical Unit (CAFGU) and the notorious vigitante groups (now called the Civilian Volunteer Organization). Aid will also be used to fund the regime's fake agrarian reform program to deceive the people and create an illusion of economic progress.

The current economic crisis cannot be solved by an aid scheme which firms up the framework of the very system that brought about the moribund state of the economy. Aid, to be truly beneficial to the Filipino people, should be channeled to fund genuing agrarian reform and nationalist industrialization programs. Aid should be aimed at building a self-reliant, self-sustaining and equitable economy. Aid is not aid which does none of these things but maintains its recipient in a permanent state of backwardness and mendicancy.