

PAHAYAGAN NG PARTIDO KOMUNISTA NG PILIPINAS
PINAPATNUBAYAN NG
MARXISMO-LENINISMO-MAOISMO

Bayan

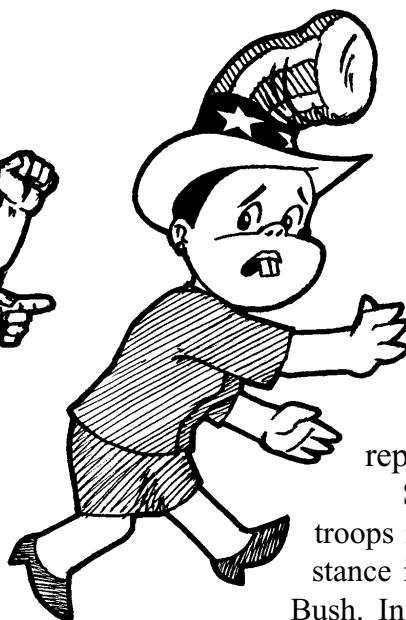
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EDITORIAL

Make the ultra-puppet Macapagal-Arroyo regime pay dearly



Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo has completely ceded Philippine independence and sovereignty to the imperialists. She has thoroughly set aside even the neocolonial republic's pretensions to freedom.

She has once again admitted American troops into the Philippines. She defends this in a stance imitating her master, the bully George W. Bush. In rabid adherence to the new "Bush doctrine", she has subsumed Philippine sovereignty to US imperialist appropriation of the right to intervene anywhere in the world in the name of the "war against terrorism." Macapagal-Arroyo has subordinated to the latter the right of the Philippines to pursue an independent foreign policy, and even her government's constitution and laws.

She has revived the blind hysteria of the Committee on Un-American Activities (CUA) of the 1950s in the US and the Committee on Un-Fili-

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A CALL TO OUR READERS

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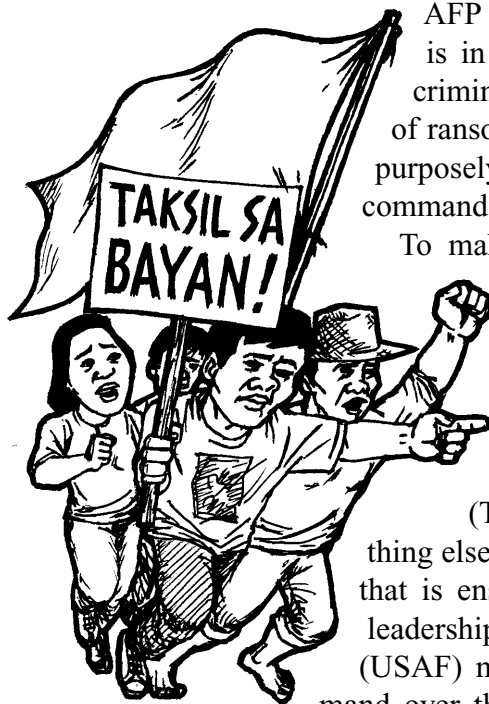
pino Activities (CUFA) and Committee on Anti-Filipino Activities (CAFA) of the 1960s, where anyone who espoused patriotic and democratic aspirations was branded a "communist". Brandishing the same warped line of reasoning of the fanatic reactionaries in the US and the Philippines during the McCarthyist era, Macapagal-Arroyo has tagged as "un-Filipino", "communist" and "lovers of terrorists" all the patriotic and democratic forces and people upholding national sovereignty and protesting the trespass of American troops into the country.

Macapagal-Arroyo is exploiting the widespread indignation against the Abu Sayyaf and the AFP's inutility against it, in order to inveigle the people into accepting the intervention of American troops as saviors from the hands of the Abu Sayyaf. Like the demagogue Estrada, Macapagal-Arroyo uses the harshest words against "terrorism" but conceals the truth that the Abu Sayyaf is a monster created by the

Macapagal-Arroyo is exploiting the widespread indignation against the Abu Sayyaf and the AFP's inutility against it, in order to inveigle the people into accepting the intervention of American troops as saviors from the hands of the Abu Sayyaf.

AFP against the revolutionary Moro struggle. She covers up the fact that the Abu Sayyaf grew under the protection of the AFP and civilian bureaucracy, is in cahoots with the latter in criminal activities and the sharing of ransom payments and is always purposely allowed by the AFP high command to slip through its cordon.

To make it appear that it looks after the country's sovereignty and to mollify protests against Balikatan 02-1, the regime sought the drafting and signing of the Terms of Reference (TOR). But, more than anything else, it is the interest of the US that is ensured. It affirmed that the leadership of the US Armed Forces (USAF) maintain independent command over the American troops in the



Philippines. The US ascertained the right of its forces to “self-defense” while participating in military operations against the Abu Sayyaf. In the final analysis, the mission order from the USAF supreme command would remain most decisive in determining the movements of the American troops.

As a mark of her utter puppetry, Macapagal-Arroyo doggedly defends US armed intervention, despite its clear illegality from the point of view of the constitution and laws of the reactionary government. Even a number of her own partymates could not stomach her out-and-out puppetry to US imperialism. Even the reactionary political opposition assailed Macapagal-Arroyo’s brazen disregard, violation and twisting of the laws of the government.

The return of US imperialist armed troops to the Philippines and Macapagal-Arroyo’s shameless collaboration with her imperialist master again attest in the starkest manner to continuing imperialist domination of the Philippines. It shows how the US continues to use the entire Philippines as a big military base, despite the fact that the patriotic and militant forces and people have already junked the military bases agreement in 1991. Through VFA, MLSA and others, US imperialism is determinedly and continually conniving with the puppet government to contrive various ways of overcoming the absence of a military bases agree-

ment and make the return and intervention of US troops in the Philippines appear legitimate. The threat of more massive and more vicious US armed aggression in the country looms.

The US-Macapagal-Arroyo collusion has rekindled the fires of patriotism among the people. This compels the Filipino people to tread the path of militant and revolutionary struggle for national liberation.

Resistance to US armed intervention in the country is fast spreading, as well as actions by the patriotic citizenry to drive out American troops. They are staunchly protesting by means of street actions, mass meetings, education, dissemination of propaganda, cultural presentations, signature campaigns and other forms of collective action. Legal bids have also been filed in the reactionary courts. Overseas, patriotic Filipinos and other anti-imperialist forces have also been launching mass actions.

At the same time, there is a need to persevere even more to reach out and explain to the people, organize and mobilize them in their greater num-

bers in order to achieve the broad unity of the populace in the fight against imperialist domination and intervention. We must counter the pro-imperialist propaganda being spewed out by the regime.

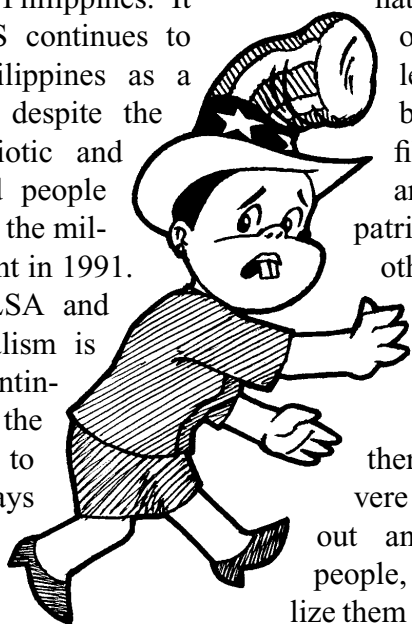
We must expose the nature of imperialism and its exploitation and oppression of the nation and the people: the semicolonial character of society and the puppetry of the Philippine government; the history of imperial-

ist aggression in the country; the US’ strategic economic, political and military interests in the Philippines and the Asia-Pacific; and the real objectives of the reentry here of American troops.

The revolutionary movement and the people must tirelessly fight the Macapagal-Arroyo regime’s espousal of US armed intervention. The people must act in all their capacity to make the Macapagal-Arroyo regime pay dearly for its consummate puppetry to US imperialism and betrayal of the Filipino people.

The people must act to prevent the Macapagal-Arroyo regime from remaining in power much longer, just as they did earlier when they brought down the Estrada regime. We must steadfastly keep up the struggle against US armed intervention and any other regime that will advocate it. **AB**

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The return

US armed intervention in the Philippines

US Special Operations Forces land in Basilan. Alighting from MH-47 Chinook helicopters, different batches of the 160 Green Beret commandos with a mission to go into Basilan and pursue the Abu Sayyaf started arriving at the 103rd Infantry Brigade headquarters from February 17 onwards. Meanwhile, 10 soldiers of the US Green Berets died when their Chinook helicopter crashed last February 22. As in the case of the army helicopter that was allegedly fired upon somewhere in Northern Luzon last February 10, in violation of the specific terms of the Visiting Forces Agreement, no Filipino soldier was on board to accompany the Green Berets.

Terms of Reference, signed.

Last February 13, thirteen days after US troops arrived in the country, the US and Philippine government signed the Terms of Reference (ToR) in order to start Balikatan 02-1. The ToR contains the rules concerning the conduct of Balikatan 02-1.

Robert Fitts, *charge d'affaires* of the US embassy in the Philippines, signed for the US government. Assistant Foreign Secretary for American Affairs Minerva Falcon signed for the Macapagal-Arroyo government. The Philippines had wanted Foreign Affairs Secretary Teofisto Guingona to sign the document but the US belittled the ToR and Guingona's counterpart in rank, US Secretary of State Colin Powell, refused to sign it.

Macapagal-Arroyo had boasted that the ToR is the result of her insistence that the rules of Balikatan 02-1 be written in order to "allay the fears that the war games are not mere exercises and that it will weaken our sovereignty". This was nevertheless spurned by patriotic organizations and many among the people, as the ToR cannot at all conceal the operations aspect of Balikatan 02-1 and only proves that the mission of the

American troops in Mindanao is armed intervention in internal matters.

Among the provisions of the ToR that prove these are:

1) the "training" is divided into three phases: deployment of 160 Green Berets in tandem with AFP field commanders in Basilan to pursue the Abu Sayyaf; "exercises to further advise, assist and train in Malagutay and Zamboanga" and "support activities in Cebu";

2) "The unit commands will be enforced by the respective commanders of the AFP and USAF" with an additional trimming "under the over-all authority of the Filipino and American co-director of the exercise";

3) The US forces will have the "right to self-defense" (without clarifying the entire meaning of the phrase).



US and World Bank to invest

in Mindanao. The US plans to pour \$20.2 million into Mindanao this year for so-called "development". The WB will also pour in \$35 million the next five years for "development assistance". According to the WB, the fund will be increased "as soon as law and order returns", a not-so-direct way of endorsing Balikatan 02-1, and actually as gratuity for the regime's surrender of national sovereignty and concession of complete freedom for the US to intervene as much as it wants to in the country.

Macapagal-Arroyo, the toughie. Like her bully of a master in George W. Bush, last February 8 Macapagal-Arroyo brusquesly derided the opposition to Balikatan 02-1. She branded them as "defenders of terrorists, partners in the business of murderers, and lovers of the Abu Sayyaf".

Macapagal-Arroyo's statement reaped criticisms

left and right. This was condemned by patriotic and militant forces and many among the people. It was also criticized by a number of her party mates, including Sen. Manuel Villar and Sen. Joker Arroyo.

Daily protests. Protest actions against Balikatan 02-1 take place in various parts of the country practically every day.

In Metro Manila, students and other groups stage successive protest actions in front of the US embassy. Their pickets and rallies against Balikatan 02-1 and US armed intervention in the country are forcibly dispersed.

Coinciding with the commemoration of the 103rd anniversary of the Filipino-American war last February 4, thousands of militants launched a “national day of protest against US intervention”. In Butuan City, residents marched and chanted anti-US imperialist slogans. In Baguio City, national minorities beat gongs and performed indigenous dances in the streets while burning the US flag. There were also protest actions in front of the US embassy in Manila, Clark Field in Angeles, Pampanga; Cebu; Davao; Naga and other cities of the Philippines.

Last February 6, some 54 people’s organizations, three regional coalitions, three sectoral alliances and 75 prominent personalities formed Out with US Troops Now! or OUT NOW!, a national coalition against US intervention. The coalition plans to collect one million signatures against Balikatan.

In Davao, about 7,000 protesters held a rally and signed a manifesto against Balikatan.

Last February 15, a caravan against Balikatan was staged by BAYAN in Cebu City. The caravan proceeded to Benito Ebuen Airbase in Mactan, Lapu-lapu City. **AB**

Further trampling on the sovereignty of nations

Bush doctrine

In the modern and civilized world, respect for national sovereignty is a fundamental principle in international relations. This served as the most basic principle in the creation of the United Nations after World War II. This same principle, espoused by various other international institutions and conferences, has been further developed through concepts such as respect for the right to self-determination, non-interference in the internal affairs of other countries, recognition of each others’ territorial integrity, equality among nations, peaceful coexistence and mutual non-aggression.

In the past 50 years, the US has repeatedly violated the sovereignty of countries in its bid to impose imperialist interest in every part of the globe. It has done so in Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia, Korea, Yugoslavia, Iraq, Nicaragua, Panama, Haiti, Grenada and other countries.

In waging its war of aggression against Afghanistan and declaring a “war without borders”, US imperialism has opened a new chapter in the unprecedented violation and disregard for the principle of national sovereignty and the corresponding rules governing international relations.

In the past year, the US wholly arrogated unto itself the right to invade Afghanistan, in total disregard of the country’s independence. US imperialism exploited the September 11, 2001 attack to declare a “war against terrorism” and justify its aggression in Afghanistan. To form a multinational “anti-terrorist coalition” to support this war, it has onerously imposed its own will upon every country of the world through threats of economic sanctions or military attack against any country that refuses to join the “coalition”.

Consequent to the US’ brusque diplomacy and collusion with puppet regimes, 136 countries extended “assistance” to the US, including 89 countries that “allowed” US war planes access to their air space, 76 that “allowed” US military aircraft to land on



their territory and 23 that “offered” the use of their countries as launching pads for offensive operations of American troops. In the final analysis, all these actions constituted either partial or full surrender of their countries’ sovereignty.

ON JANUARY 31, BUSH DID SOME FURTHER arm-twisting of other nations. The chief bully of imperialism directly threatened to trample the sovereignty of any country that refuses to bow to its will. In his State of the Union Address before the US congress, he declared “if they don’t act, America will”. It was a statement full of arrogance and outright violation of the right of nations to decide matters for themselves. US has unilaterally determined according to its impositions, the course of action that the countries of the world should take.

US imperialism is now foisting the “Bush doctrine”: the “war against terrorism” has been superimposed as the overriding principle in international relations, to justify the launching of the “war without borders” and outright attacks on any country by the US to hunt down threats against its monopoly capitalist interests that it calls “terrorists”.

US imperialism has been ramming down the throats of the international community the idea that the new “Bush doctrine” is far more important than any principle that takes into account the independence and sovereignty of nations.

It therefore comes as no surprise that after pursuing the al Qaida and overthrowing the Taliban regime in Afghanistan, Bush

has ranged as the “Axis of Evil”, North Korea, Iraq and Iran—countries with records of resisting the US and opposing the imposition of imperialist power in their respective countries.

These past years, US imperialism had been hiding behind the cloak of multilateral action, the same way it used the UN and the

Multinational Peacekeeping Force to cover up its attacks on Iraq and Yugoslavia. Now it is acting unilaterally and without consulting anyone—especially in regard to the deployment of military forces—in any part of the world. This is now viewed with trepidation even by other imperialist countries.

The US has been aggressively

On the increased US war budget

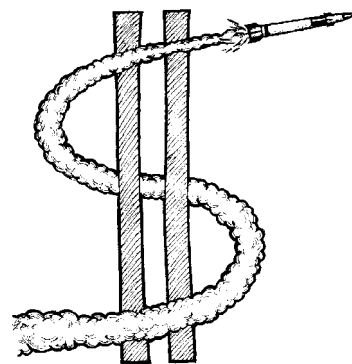
GEORGE W. BUSH’S PROPOSED \$12.128 TRILLION NATIONAL BUDGET for 2003 is intended for heightened US imperialist aggression, militarism and war efforts. Bush declared that “US defense is the number one priority” in the budget.

Eighteen percent of the budget or \$379 billion shall be earmarked for the increase of US military strength and global deployment. This is \$48 billion or 14.5% larger than the current US military budget. This would also surpass the peak of US military spending during Ronald Reagan’s presidency in the early 1980s.

In the proposed military budget, \$27.2 billion is allocated for the launching of wars in 2003, including \$10 billion for military contingencies. The allocation was based on the more than \$1.8 billion monthly spent by the US in its war in Afghanistan.

From 2003 to 2008, a five-year arms development program shall be implemented for which the US will allocate \$408 billion. More than \$1 billion of this shall be used for the development of Joint Direct Attack Munition and laser-guided bombs and similar high-technology precision weapons.

This all-out military spending would result in a greater US budget deficit next year. Funds for social services like health and education would consequently suffer large cuts spelling greater hardships for the American people. **AB**



preparing for, seeking and instigating wars. Its objective is to expand and deepen its imperialist hegemony and “globalization” policy. The US wants to jumpstart and pull through its failing economy from recession by further squeezing its neocolonies dry and strengthening its war industry. It has been imposing its military might in various corners of the globe to suppress

the anti-imperialist and revolutionary resistance of the world’s peoples.

Its unbridled violation of the rights of nations, its brandishing of superiority and power the world over and the greater suffering this will bring upon the world’s peoples will boomerang on US imperialism. Whatever immediate benefit US imperialism gains from riding

roughshod on the rights and welfare of nations and peoples, sooner or later, it will certainly reap even bigger losses. US imperialism will incur the greater wrath and face intensified resistance from all who were ravaged and made to suffer in its rampage, until eventually, the oppression and enslavement it has wrought the world over will be eliminated. **AB**

Bush doctrine under fire the world over

THE NEW “BUSH DOCTRINE” AND ITS ATTENDANT “WAR without borders” are reaping intense criticism. Protests by progressive and democratic forces are growing broader and stronger in the US itself and elsewhere the world over.

At the same time, vehement criticism is spreading from China and Russia to US allies in Europe and South America. This can lead to the US’ international isolation.

The Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs lambasted Bush’s declaration of an expanded US war of aggression, warning that the declaration would have “serious consequences” if followed by military action.

The Russian Prime Minister, Vladimir Putin, also criticized the US’ expansion of the war in Afghanistan and extending it elsewhere in the world.

French Foreign Minister Hubert Vedrine expressed concern over the US’ “simplistic and unilateral” decisions “based on its own worldview and self-interest” and relatedly its extending the war against “terrorism” outside Afghanistan. He likewise criticized US’ actions that “limit the self-determination, sovereignty and freedom of action of other nations of the world.”

European Union External Affairs Commissioner Chris Patten made the same strong criticism

during the European foreign ministers’ gathering in Spain. According to Patten, it is about time Europeans take a stand against the present “unilateral overdrive” of the US. Participants in the meeting unanimously supported Patten’s position.

Meanwhile, Japan distanced itself from Bush’s declaration as Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi announced his country’s continuing openness to talk with Iraq, Iran and North Korea. He clarified that “Japan has a way different from that of the US”.

Further, according to the World Social Forum’s Peace Conference (WSFPC), the US “moved to impose its will on the world through force”, “installed a new Cold War climate” and is now acting as the world’s “perpetual agent of terror”. Nobel Peace laureates and other world peace advocates attended the conference. The WSFPC added that the “the United Nations has definitely lost its role”.

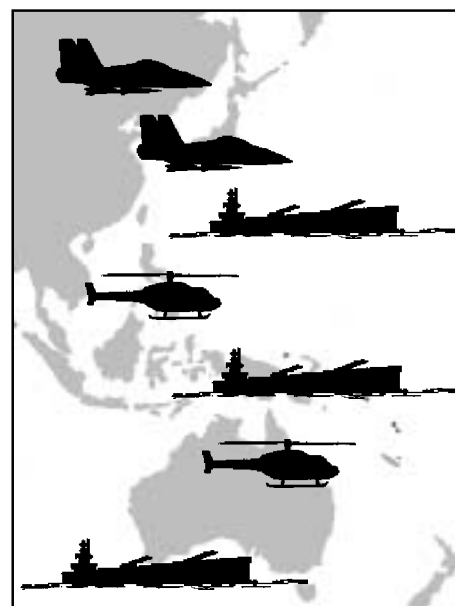
The World Parliamentary Forum (WPF) also condemned the US’ declaration of Iran, Iraq and North Korea as the “Axis of evil” and as the next targets of the US’ “unilateral military attacks”. One thousand, one hundred fifty-five (1,155) lawmakers and officials from 40 countries attended the WPF meeting. **AB**

US military power in the Asia-Pacific

Armed intervention by American troops in the Philippines is part of the overall military strategy of US imperialism in the Asia-Pacific. It is in accordance with maintaining a “credible power projection” through the deployment of about 100,000 US troops in the region, as stated in the “Security Strategy Report for the Asia-Pacific Region” issued by the US Department of Defense in 1995 and 1998.

At present, the US has 73,000 military personnel in its military bases in Japan (36,930) and Korea (35,952). It also has 17,150 troops based in warships of the Seventh Fleet that patrol the Pacific Ocean.

Including its troops based in Guam, Hawaii and other islands in the Pacific Ocean within US territory, there are up to 300,000 American soldiers stationed in the region. They comprise 20% of the US



Armed Forces’ entire troop strength and represent the biggest number of forces outside their own continent.

NORTH KOREA PREPARED TO RESIST US AGGRESSION

“IF THE US WANTS WAR, OUR ARMED FORCES AND THE Korean people have no other option but to fight.” Thus declared Pak Gil Yon, North Korean ambassador to the United Nations, last February 7 in reaction to US President Bush’s State of the Union address. The ambassador stated that the US’ inclusion of North Korea in what it calls the “axis of evil” only stopped short of the US declaring war.

With his demand last February 8 for the pullout of a number of North Korean troops from its border with South Korea, Bush effectively obstructed the negotiation for the unification of the two Koreas.

The North Korean ambassador further said, “We are always open to engage in talks and negotiations with the US to resolve security matters but such negotiations should be based on equality and without preconditions.”

Due to strong opposition from the South Korean government and people, Bush was compelled to withdraw for now his threat of US aggression in North Korea.

FARC DEMANDS PULLOUT OF US “MILITARY ADVISERS” IN COLOMBIA

THE FUERZAS ARMADAS REVOLUCIONARIAS DE COLOMBIA (FARC), the principal revolutionary force in Colombia, demanded the pullout of US “military advisers” in the country as precondition to a cease-fire agreement with President Andres Pastrana’s government. According to FARC, “foreign military advisers, particularly Americans, are involved in an undignified violation of our national sovereignty.”

The revolutionary army likewise demands an end to Plan Colombia, Pastrana’s counterinsurgency program disguised as a campaign to stop drug trafficking. Plan Colombia primarily depends on US military aid. Aside from FARC, there are other revolutionary forces in Colombia like the Ejercito de Liberacion Nacional (ELN). Already one third of Colombia’s national budget is being spent in the fight against revolutionary forces, prompting US Pres. Bush to propose an increase in the \$1.3 billion annual military aid to Colombia.

Unlike Europe, where the US has a military alliance with other countries through the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), the US is able to flex its muscles as the sole power in the Asia-Pacific region.

There is a direct link between the US' desire to ensure its economic interests and its military deployment in the region. The Asia-Pacific is the biggest market that serves as a dumping ground for US commodities. The US has up to \$150 billion in investments and conducts \$500 billion worth of trade annually in the region. The Asia-Pacific is one of the US' biggest sources of cheap raw materials and labor.

The Pentagon Quadrennial Defense Review of September 30, 2001 states that there is a need for more "access and infrastructure agreements" between the US and Asia due to the emergence of China as a rival military power with a strong base. The "access and infrastructure agreements" would allow American troops to enter and base themselves in countries and use the latter's infrastructure.

One strategic objective of the US' strong military presence in Asia is the containment of China, as the latter has the biggest market not only in Asia but in the entire world. The US would like to control the trade routes in order to con-

trol the Chinese market and ensure that China would not act independently and against US interests.

Based also on the security strategy outlined by the US for the Asia-Pacific in 1995 and 1998, the main objectives of the massive deployment of US troops and the bilateral military alliances in the Asia-Pacific are to directly manage and train the armed forces of neocolonies and make them dumping grounds of equipment and outmoded military weapons, to serve as a counterweight to China and a shield against the military might of an independent Korea, and to immediately deploy assault troops against the emerging and rising anti-imperialist and revolutionary movements in the region.

The US armed forces would confront not only US imperialism's enemies (such as China and North Korea) or "common enemies" of international and regional alliances that the US has formed. They also focus on "internal threats" especially in the US' semicolonies. Towards this end, "training" programs for troops in various areas of the world have been developed and expanded. Such "trainings" concentrate on strengthening what the US calls "foreign internal defense" (involvement in the internal defense of other countries), which are sometimes packaged as "anti-terrorism" and anti-drugs. According to the

Through the acquisition of "access rights," the US is able to position its troops even in the absence of a permanent military base in the country it has an agreement with. But in reality, it transforms such countries into gigantic US military bases.

Doctrine for Special Forces Operations, the objective is to "organize, train, advise and assist" military forces of other countries "to free them and protect their interests from subversion, lawlessness and insurrection". For its "foreign internal defense" in the Philippines, US imperialism plans to directly confront as well the New People's Army and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front.

US imperialism's alliance and cooperation with Japan is key to its strategic security in the Asia-Pacific. There are security agreements between them that are marked by the maintenance of bases and other US military facilities in Japan, US training of the Japan Self-Defense Force and Japan's contribution to expenditures for the research and development of sophisticated weaponry.

Aside from the maintenance of military bases in Japan and South Korea, the US ensures its free access to the various countries in the region through support agreements. Among them are the acquisition of "access rights" for its armed forces in Australia, Indonesia, Singapore, Thailand, Malaysia and Brunei. Through the acquisition of "access rights," the US is able to position its troops even in the absence of a permanent military base in the country it has an agreement with. But in reality, it transforms such countries into gigantic US military bases.

In the Philippines, the Macapagal-Arroyo regime has been surreptitiously attempting to grant the US "access rights" through an executive agreement. Maca- ►

Looking Back: A century of US imperialist devastation

In this issue, *AB* highlights the following articles which review the miseries inflicted by US imperialism upon the Filipino people and the bloody history of its domination of the Philippines. Present US policies and actions in the country, including the ongoing armed intervention in Mindanao, can best be understood only with a study of these chapters of the Philippine history.

Previous Balikatan exercises

Violations of the people's rights

To make the return of American troops into Philippine soil more acceptable, they are pictured as troops with high respect for human rights and sensitivity to local customs. The regime wants to erase from memory the abuses of the American troops in past war games, apart from the deprivations suffered by the Filipino people since the US colonized the country.

Instead of helping the victims seek redress for the injustices, the puppet government has even acted as mediator to fix cases in favor

of the US forces. The Macapagal-Arroyo regime has even gone to the extent of asking the people to thank the US for "assisting" in the "anti-

terrorist war".

On August 21, 2000, Arnelo Gabiola, 18 and Rolley Narvares, 17, of Toledo, Cebu were killed when a grenade irresponsibly left by American troops during an exercise in the area exploded. Jordan Villarmina, 11, was likewise wounded. The US Navy SEALs and the Philippine Navy had no permit to use the place as a firing range. Neither did they warn the public prior to firing there. The American troops were not made to answer for their culpability, nor for the provisions of the Visiting Forces Agreement and the rules of the exercise they violated. To silence the families of the victims, the past and present regimes offered them bribes.

Marcelo Batistil, a taxi driver, was also offered a \$5,000 bribe to drop the charges he filed against three American soldiers who manhandled him last March 6, 2000 while the Balikatan exercises were ongoing. Batistil complained when the three soldiers refused to pay their taxi fare and instead vented their ire on him. Even under the terms of the VFA, the three should have been immediately arrested by local authorities and charged in Philippine courts. However, the US

► pagal-Arroyo and Bush secretly drafted the Mutual Logistics Support Agreement (MLSA) in November 2001*. But due to intense criticism and protests by the people and even the reactionary opposition, the regime was forced to deny its existence and declare that what it had signed was a mere draft. Thus, the regime is unable to use the agreement to legitimize the entry of

foreign troops in the country and has been constrained to come up with an assortment of legal hocus-pocus.

The US has been setting up permanent and temporary military bases in other parts of Asia. Some of its newer military bases are in Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan and India in Central and South Asia.

The US is also training the various national armies in the region. Aside from the Philippines, it is conducting trainings in more than 150 countries, including Australia, Thailand, Singapore, Japan, Korea, Indonesia and Russia. ■

**See discussion on the MLSA in "American troops: Basing themselves anew in the Philippines", AB January 2002*

Ravages in the time of the US military bases in the Philippines

The prolonged stay of US military bases on Philippine soil from 1947 to 1991 was a bitter continuation of the earlier bloody history of US occupation of the country. This was done with the forcible imposition of imperialist hegemony in the Asia-Pacific and the suppression of the anti-imperialist and anti-fascist movement.

In the 55-year stay of the US military bases in the Philippines, there was a long list of crimes committed by American troops against the people. From 1980 to 1987 alone, American troops committed 3,211 cases of abuse against Filipinos.

"COUNTER-INSURGENCY". The presence of US military bases in the Philippines is tightly linked

to counter-revolutionary schemes. Towards the end of the 1940s, US military troops were used in the pursuit of the Hukbong Bayan Laban sa Hapon and Hukbong Mapagpalaya ng Bayan.

From 1950-79, about 16,370 Filipino officials were trained under the International Military Education and Training of the Joint U.S. Military Advisory Group. This was



part of the US "counter-insurgency" doctrine used in Vietnam on trial in the Philippines. It was a major component of the local reactionary army's training in the suppression of the revolutionary forces and the insurgent population.

The US also guided and directed the military operations of the local armed forces against the revolutionary forces. Following instruc- ►

refused to surrender the three and instead allowed them to flee to the US.

In a Balikatan naval exercise last February 2000, bombs fired by the troops participating in the exercise missed their targets four times. The bombs hit Talisayin, a fishing community in Zambales. As a result, 10-15 families had to evacuate the area defenseless and in fear. Despite the clear error considering especially that the community was populated, the officials of the Philippine Navy were adamant that the area was part of the target. But the residents of the commu-

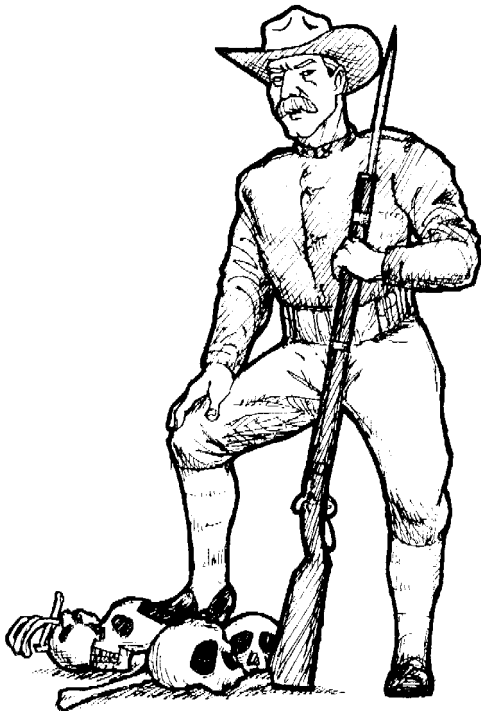
nity were not first evacuated nor even advised before the bombings began.

The AFP has also chalked up a long list of wanton disregard for the rights and welfare of the people, for the sake of the US troops participating in the Balikatan.

In December 1999, in preparation for Balikatan 2000, troops from the SAF, 24th IB, 68th IB, 69th IB, 71st IB, 703rd Bde Training Unit and the ISAFP burned hundreds of houses in the mountains of San Marcelino and San Felipe in Zambales, Dinalupihan in Bataan, and Floridablanca, Lubao and Porac

in Pampanga. Allegedly they were "clearing" the areas for the military exercises. Aetas residing there were arrested and tortured in large numbers by the said troops.

The AFP imposed a food blockade on the Aetas of Sitio Palis, Baytan and Maquisquis in Loob Bunga resettlement area in Boto-lan, Zambales last February 2000. The soldiers also forcibly displaced more than a hundred Aeta families from Sitio Tarukan, Barangay Sta. Ana, Capas, Tarlac. They did this to "clear" the area near the Crow Valley bombing and gunnery range to be used in the Balikatan. **AB**



Filipino-American War (1899-1913)

The first US imperialist intervention in the country

The Filipino-American War in the first decade and a half of the 20th century is now but a memory. The old pictures showing hectares of skeletal remains of Filipinos killed by US troops in this war are constant reminders of the grim and gory debauchery against Filipinos by the newly rising US imperialism. More than half a million Filipinos, including innocent children and women, were mercilessly killed by the American troops invading the country. The deployment then of 126,468 American troops aggressing upon and occupying the Philippines, was the largest by the military forces of the US in its first phase of expansionism.

► tions from American officials at Clark Air Field, in 1972 the Philippine Air Force bombed many areas in the province of Isabela that were suspected as base and operational areas of the New People's Army. Local and foreign troops regularly joined forces and coordinated on intelligence, investigation and patrol outside Clark Field and other US military bases in the country.

ARBITRARY KILLING. In the first ten years after the treaty to maintain US military bases in the country was signed, 20 Filipinos were killed by US troops stationed in the military bases. In two successive months in 1964, one fisherman and one Aeta were killed by American troops who assumed they were "wild boars". None of the murderers was punished nor was any one of the victims given justice.

ABUSES AGAINST WOMEN AND CHILDREN. Women who worked in the entertainment business catering to US troops were most vulnerable. Many were infected with gonorrhea, syphilis, herpes and AIDS. Many also suffered unplanned pregnancies, forced abortion as well as alcohol and drugs addiction, and were subjected to physical and sexual violence and other forms of abuses.

More than 200 cases of rape and other forms of abuses on women filed from 1947-91 in Olongapo City against US troops were all for naught. From 1981-88, 15 cases of sexual abuse against children aged 11-16 were quashed. Most of them were abandoned children of US servicemen who grew up exploited and victims of discrimination. Not a few of them were sold as prostitutes from as early as 4 to 6 years of age.

TOXIC WASTE. American troops left behind a terrible burden of waste and toxic chemicals in more than 47 areas of the former military bases. No less than 300 people living inside the former bases were killed, born with congenital defects, developed cancer and liver diseases and other afflictions due to the contamination of their water and environment from asbestos, lead, nitrate, dieldrin, mercury, benzene, polychlorinated biphenyl, pentachlorophenol and other poisonous chemicals. Instead of cleaning up the bases and indemnifying the victims, the US only promised more military aid to the puppet regime. The US adamantly refuses to answer for its toxic legacy.

Up to now, the people continue to suffer the damages consequent to decades of the presence of US military bases in the country. **AB**

Echoes of US armed intervention in Vietnam

The return of American troops in the Philippines in relation with the expansion of the US “war against terrorism” brings back to memory the Vietnam War, which began in September 1950 with the deployment of a few forces of the Military Assistance Advisory Group in Vietnam. These US troops served as “advisors” to the soldiers of France which was then the imperialist power in Vietnam.

In 1961, the US sent 400 Green Berets (US Special Forces) troopers to prop up the tottering Diem puppet regime and train the local reactionary forces in counter-guerrilla tactics against the Viet Cong, the armed forces of the Communist Party of Vietnam. Like the



160 Green Berets and the 500 other American troops participating in Balikatan 02-1, the first troops sent by the US to Vietnam were called “Special Advisors” of the puppet army. They launched ►

Up to now, US imperialism with total arrogance refuses to account for or even just apologize officially for its innumerable crimes when it subjugated a people who have just won independence from Spanish colonialism.

To terrify and silence the Filipino people, US troops became experts in the use of torture, massacre, rape and all sorts of barbarism and brutality. They specialized in the use of “water cure” and “rope torture”, a form of which was to hang babies upside down to force their parents to disclose the guerrillas’ whereabouts.

Among their most notorious crimes was the merciless massacre of the whole town of Balangiga, Samar in 1901, in retaliation for the successful raid of an American base by guerrillas. The American troops did not leave a single person alive. To add insult to injury, to this day they refuse to return the church bells which were used to signal the raid of the camp of the American troopers and which they stole afterwards.

Zoning, hamleting, torching of entire barrios and food blockades became the policy in areas where there

was fierce opposition from the people to another occupation by a foreign power. Armed uprisings against the US erupted and scattered all over the country, most of them spontaneous. Among these were the uprisings of the Pulahanes in Visayas, the Colorums and Lumads of Mindanao, and the Sakdalistas and troops of Macario Sakay in Luzon. To belittle their resistance, they were branded as “criminals and bandits”.

At the same time as it sowed widespread and vicious terror, the US also used the local bourgeois-liberals and established the puppet Philippine government, which passed such laws as the Sedition Law of 1901, the Brigandage Act of 1902 and the Reconcentration Act of 1903 to legitimize the US policy of genocide in the Philippines.

The mercenary Philippine Constabulary and Philippine Scouts were also mercilessly used against the Katipuneros and others who were fighting against US subjugation of the country. It was only in 1911 when guerrilla warfare was subdued in Luzon. Thereafter, the US shifted its forces against the fierce resistance of the people and intense fighting in Mindanao. **AB**

► “Special Wars” (commando operations) that eventually evolved into a full-scale war of aggression.

Before the end of the year, there were already about 900 “military advisers” there. By the end of 1962, the number had reached 11,000. Very much the same as what the officials of the US and Philippine government and armed forces are saying now, they also declared then that the American troops “will not participate in combat operations”. And as in Balikpapan 02-1, the American troops were given authority by then US President John F. Kennedy in 1962 to “shoot the Viet Cong when you are fired upon”.

Then, they used the slogan of “containment” or the suppression of the spread of communism as the reason for US intervention in Vietnam. Now, they are using the “war against terrorism” to trample on the sovereignty and independence of nations. Lyndon B. Johnson (who took over after Kennedy’s assassination) used the spurious story of the alleged shooting by the Viet Cong of the navy destroyer USS Maddox at the Gulf of Tonkin as pretext to send more US troops to Vietnam starting 1967.

In the succeeding years, US troops sent to Vietnam rapidly increased. Their numbers peaked in 1969 with 550,000. In the span of 15 years since 1950, the total of American soldiers sent there reached two million.

On January 27, 1969, however, the paper tiger that is US imperialism was forced to sign a treaty to withdraw from the war and send



ARMED GOONS OF APEX MINING PUNISHED BY NPA IN COMPOSTELA

WITHOUT FIRING A SINGLE SHOT, RED fighters confiscated one M60 and one .30 caliber machine guns, two M14, five M16, and one Garand rifles and four night-vision goggles in a raid February 26 in Compostela Valley.

The victorious tactical offensive was launched by the 3rd Pulang Bagani Company of the New People’s Army’s Merardo Arce Command against the goons of the APEX Mining Corp. in Brgy. Masara, Maco.

According to Rigoberto F. Sanchez, spokesman of the MAC-BHB, the tactical offensive was conducted to punish the security

goons of APEX in the light of the harassments, threats, and abuses they have long been committing against the masses. This group is no different from the reactionary armed forces in the way they conduct antipeople and counterrevolutionary activities. They were also punished for violating the policies and rules of the people’s democratic government against maintaining high-powered arms.

The populace and the revolutionary movement were greatly elated by this latest victory of the 3rd Pulang Bagani Company.

NPA RAIDS ALBAY POLICE STATION

THE NEW PEOPLE’S ARMY CONFISCATED two M16 rifles and four .38 caliber pistols in a surprise raid of a PNP station in Pier Site, Pio Duran, Albay last February 16. Three policemen, namely SPO4

Macario Olina, SPO4 Sancho Suizo and SPO4 Alfredo Lopez Sr. were killed, and another one was wounded in the raid. The raid occurred at 9:45 in the evening.

home all its troops in Vietnam. This was because of the determination and bravery in struggle of the revolutionary Vietnamese under the leadership of the Communist Party of Vietnam and the impending defeat of the US in the war. It was not until March 29, 1973 when the

last US combat forces in Vietnam were finally withdrawn. The revolutionary Vietnamese easily crushed the puppet armed forces. On April 30, 1975, the puppet regime completely collapsed and the Vietnamese revolution gained complete victory. **AB**

NOTORIOUS ELEMENTS PUNISHED BY NPA

THE NPA METED THE DEATH PENALTY on three criminal elements in separate punitive actions.

The NPA punished Moises Salazar last February 14 in Sitio Bagtok, Barangay San Vicente, Montevista, Compostela Valley. Salazar was found guilty of raping women and robbery. Red fighters had repeatedly given him warnings.

Last February 13, PO3 Rey Alasaas of Barangay Poblacion, Baco, Oriental Mindoro was killed. Alasaas had long been a target for punishment for persistently leading counter-revolutionary activities in the province.

The NPA also punished Rene Mahinay of Barangay Labigan, Pio V. Corpuz, Masbate last February 16 for being an active asset of the military.

GRP OBSTRUCTS RELEASE OF POWs

THE MACAPAGAL-ARROYO REGIME continues to reject demands to stop military and police operations in the region of Far South Mindanao. Worse, it continues to intensify military operations that obstruct the smooth release of POWs Sgt. Jeremias Roseta and other AFP agents being held by the Valentin Palamine Command (VPC).

Many lumads and other residents in the area are presently experiencing hardship and have resorted to evacuation due to the intense

NEWS ROUNDUP



VICTORY IN HONG KONG. The government of Hong Kong last January 31, 2002 withdrew its plan to reduce the minimum wage of domestic helpers. This is a victory of the struggle spearheaded by Filipino workers against the wage-reduction plan.

OPPOSITION TO HIKED CONTRIBUTIONS TO SSS. Organized labor are opposing the plan to increase the monthly contributions of SSS members from 8.4% to 21%. The Kilusang Mayo Uno is demanding that an investigation on the squandering of SSS funds should be made first instead of imposing heavier burdens on the workers.

NEW RULES ON LABOR-ONLY CONTRACTING. The Department of Labor and Employment will issue new rules on labor-only contracting at the end of February 2002. These will lay down the legal modes of contractualization. It will supplant the detested DOLE Order #10 (1997) that was abolished last year.

DISCRIMINATION IN THE US. Thousands of Filipino workers in the US are slated to be retrenched from work as soon as the US Aviation Security Law is implemented. The law prohibits migrant workers from serving as baggage inspectors in airports. Migrante International and the Philip Vera Cruz Project group in the US condemned this move.

WIDESPREAD UNEMPLOYMENT SINCE JANUARY. From January 1 to February 15, 2002, recorded dismissals of Filipino workers have reached 8,599, while companies continue to close down. Among these companies are Pepsi Cola, Philippine Home Cable Holdings, Cyberspace Inc. and Rosario Bros. Co.

RESISTANCE AGAINST FIELD TESTING OF GE RICE IN CAMARINES SUR. Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas (KMP) criticized on February 4 the plan of Monsanto to experiment field testing of genetically-engineered rice in Tigaon, Camarines Sur. They censured Mayor Elmo Bombase for approving it.



“BANTAY BUKO” ORGANIZED. Small coconut farmers organizations and other sectors organized last January 17 a broad alliance named “Bantay

military operations of the AFP.

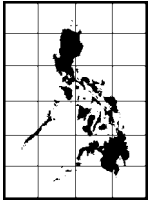
The regime refuses to implement a SOMO and a SOPO so it can use the twisted logic that the suspension of the peace talks is due

“to the failure of the NPA to release its prisoners of war”.

Since September 2001, the VPC had been offering to release the POWs.

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Opposition to Estrada's medical check-up to the US.

Bayan Muna representatives in Congress filed a resolution last February

18 against the request of Estrada to have his knee operation in the US. Bayan Muna declared that Estrada should not be allowed to leave "in the interest of justice and the speedy resolution of his plunder case". Secretary Raul Roco, Lito Osmeña of Promdi party and Renato de Villa of Reporma party also expressed their disapproval. They opposed an earlier Congress and Senate resolution supporting the request of Estrada, which was also secretly endorsed by Macapagal-Arroyo. This had been signed by 130 congressmen and 18 senators.

Foreigners' basement bargain purchase.

The Macapagal-Arroyo



regime is unqualifiedly endorsing the sale of local banks' non-productive loans (NPLs) to imperialist finance companies. Most of the NPLs have real estate collateral, which would be acquired by the foreigners purchasing the loans, despite the government's constitutional ban on foreign ownership of real estate in the country. The total value of bad loans of the country's banks that are available for sale has amounted to P291 billion. The biggest are held by Metro Bank, Philippine National Bank, Land Bank and Equitable-PCI Bank. One of the biggest imperialist companies that have started with wholesale purchasing is the US firm Lehman Brothers which had already bought one-half of the P33 billion NPLs of Metro-bank. The others are Cerberus Ltd.,

Colony Capital Asia Pacific Ltd., Goldman Sachs, Morgan Stanley, Lone Star and Deutsche Bank.

More than 120 soldiers and police, killed in Nepal. Red fighters of the Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist) victoriously raided the military and police headquarters of Accgan District, Nepal last February 16 and 17. More than 120 police and military troops were killed while 27 were severely wounded during the raids, the biggest military offensive of the PKN since the reactionary government declared a state of emergency last November 23, 2001.

Protest against the World Economic Forum. Thousands of people rallied in New York to condemn the meeting of the World Economic Forum (WEF) last February 3-8. In front of the meeting of government officials and big business, they chanted slogans like "End the War!", "Enron, how many workers did you cheat today?" and "Food, not bombs!". They condemned "globalization", dirt-cheap wages in the Third World, mass unemployment and appalling policies that ravage the people and the environment.

Strike in South Korea. Last February 26, about 20,000 workers in South Korea walked out of the Hyundai Motor Co. and Kia Motors. The workers are protesting the Kim Dae-Jung regime's economic reform program. Among these is the privatization of railway and other state-owned properties, which will result in massive retrenchment.

NEWS ROUNDUP

Buko". This will intensify the campaign to reclaim the billions of coco-levy funds and thwart any connivance between the Macapagal-Arroyo regime and Danding Cojuangco regarding San Miguel Corporation.

"DIRECT PAYMENT SCHEME" CRITICIZED. KMP criticized the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) for its planned direct payment scheme for farmers. KMP asserted that the farmers will "all the more be deprived of land" because of this. DAR formulated this plan after it received only P2.8 billion in land acquisition subsidy for land reform.

RICE SAFETY NET BILL, OPPOSED. The KMP roundly criticized last January 28 House Bill 3339 that proposes to totally eliminate restrictions on rice importation. The proposal will only bring more hardship to small farmers because cheap imported rice will flood the market. Employees of the National Food Authority are also opposing the bill because it will pave the way for the full privatization of the agency and the retrenchment of its employees.