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Teachers demand pay hike

Public school teachers in Manila have openly raised the demand for immediate adjustments in their basic pay, as the cost of goods and services continues to rise.

Through their official publication, the Manila Public School Teachers Association (MPSTA) urged the government to give the long-promised pay increase to the 15,316 teachers in the city.

Marcos promised the teachers pay adjustments last Jan. 1973, during the "referendum" in which the teachers were required to perform clerical tasks without pay. Up to now the promise remains unfulfilled.

In an editorial entitled "Let the Facts Speak Out", the MPSTA News said:

"Of the 15,316 teachers in Manila City schools, 8,777 or 66 percent receive only P400 a month basic pay but their take home pay is even...less after insurance, medicare and retirement deductions. Then it is only P362.25. That is if they are not amortizing salary loans, real estate loans or policy loans; or no loan sharks are awaiting their slice from the meager

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AFP wracked by conflicts

Corruption, splits in AFP revealed in special report by Corpus-Tagamolila group

MANILA CITY -- Large-scale graft and corruption, sharp internal conflicts due to rivalries for promotions and position, heavy losses in the countryside and the subsequent demoralization of troops -- these have characterized the Armed Forces of the Philippines during the period of martial law.

These problems and weaknesses of the AFP have been uncovered by a report from observers within the military itself. An inside view of the nature and motivations of the military establishment, the report is the work of the Corpus-Tagamolila Movement, an enlightened segment of the AFP actively working against the US-Marcos dictatorship. Inspired by the examples set by Lt. Victor Corpus and Lt. Crispin Tagamolila, who joined the New People's Army, these soldiers provide vital information and support to the underground, and prepare themselves for the time when they shall fight

hand in hand with the revolutionary forces.

The report, "The AFP Under Martial Law", edited to protect the document's authors, follows in full.

Newly-acquired power and privileges, and material incentives offered by the Marcos regime have developed the AFP into a vested-interest organization.

The military's loyalty and allegiance are being kept up by the luxurious pampering of its high ranking officers and the granting of fringe benefits to the rank-and-file. However, with the exception of a small minority of diehard Marcos followers and disgusted career-soldiers, the true loyalty of officers and men is to themselves. Loyalty to Marcos is a mere formality dictated by discretion and convenience.

The military hierarchy enjoys the luxuries and comforts of privilege and power, as well as the license to engage in large-scale graft and corruption. Malacanan and Defense officials, generals and colonels in key positions have a virtual monopoly of the very lucrative rackets that have become institutionalized in the Armed Forces. The curtailment of free speech and absence of a free press, the suppression of public opinion, elimination of Congressional "watch-

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Interview with a cadre of the NPA

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Pass on after reading

AFP...

(From page 1)

dog" committees, and the connivance of the General Auditing Office have opened wide the door to massive looting of the public treasury by the ruling elite.

The principal source of ill-gotten wealth is the so-called "national security fund" which amounts to hundreds of millions of pesos. At the say-so of Marcos or highly trusted Malacanang aides and selected AFP officers, any item in the national budget can be transferred to the national security fund and thus disappear from public view and scrutiny. This is the easiest way of transforming public funds into private and personal property.

The next biggest source of loot is the multi-million peso supply and contractual services kickback racket. The most recent DND directive requires all AFP procurement to be coursed through the Office of the Secretary of National Defense. There is a kickback for every procured item, and the beneficiaries range from Malacanang and DND officials to commanders and procurement officers. The biggest kickbacks come from AFP procurement of oil products, different types of equipment for offices, camps, communications, road-building and airfield installations, air and sea navigation and construction, enlisted men's clothing, and mass provisions.

While the mass media remains silent on the ill-gotten wealth of such members of the top brass as Gen. Fabian Ver, Gen. Canu, Gen. Tomas Diaz, Gen. Luis Amor, Gen. Alfredo Montoya, Gen. Gerardo Tansayo, Gen. Jose Rancudo and Adm. Hilario Ruiz, they play up petty offenses or crimes committed by junior officers and enlisted men to present a facade of morality under the "new society".

The competition for these spoils is the main trigger of dissatisfaction among the members of the AFP. It is not related to ideological, moral or political issues. Gen. Rafael Ilto, Gen. Bienvenido Castro, Cmdr. Gil Fernandez, and a number of ranking colonels are dissatisfied mainly because of their being "frozen" in ministerial positions.

The sharpest contradiction in the AFP officer corps is that which exists between regular officers (mostly PMA graduates) and reserve officers (most of whom are ROTC graduates). PMA graduates are generally favored when it comes to promotions, appointment to key positions, and selection of candidates

for service schooling abroad and in local post-graduate studies. But it is the reservists who make up the majority of officers in the combat zones.

A manifestation of this rivalry is the conspiracy among PMA-trained generals and senior field officers against Bienvenido Castro, an "integrate" and ROTC-trained. In a position paper and staff study, Gen. Castro called for the abolition of the PMA and its replacement by the ROTC as the main source of regular officers -- an indiscretion he is now paying for. Considering that the PMA clique virtually controls the AFP today, such a proposal will hardly be entertained by Marcos.

The conflicts within the military have helped Marcos maintain effective control of the AFP. By playing off one group against another, he has minimized the possibility of a merger of forces within the military that would attempt to displace him from power. On the other hand, he has direct line with three major factions within the military establishment and consults each faction leader separately. These are: (1) the Enrile faction which includes the DND clique, Metrocon chief Gen. Olivas, and some ranking officers from Enrile's province, Cagayan; (2) the Fabian Ver faction, composed mainly of Ilocano officers like Gen. Canu, Gen. Paz, Cmdr. Ogbinar, Col. Felix, and the Presidential Guard Battalion group; and (3) the Fidel Ramos faction made up of his loyal followers from the PC and the Army.

While rivalry for power at the top sharpens, the divisions within the AFP, increasing military offensives by revolutionary forces in the country, particularly in Mindanao and Sulu, have worsened the deterioration of morale and discipline among the AFP troops.

In places like Sulu, where the heaviest casualties are recorded, the AFP troops have lost the will to fight and have become passive resorting only to self-defense and self-preservation measures within the limits of their respective camps. Such demoralization has spread to other parts of the country where combat replacements are drawn.

The AFP has suffered heavy losses in effective combatants since the imposition of martial law that a shortage of combat troops is being felt, despite the recruitment campaign. Estimated casualties in major encounters range from squad to platoon size in Pampanga, platoon and company size in Dicol, to company and battalion size in Northern Luzon, and multi-battalion size in

Mindanao and Sulu.

Aside from losses of troops, the AFP has lost fair quantities of arms, ammunition and equipment to the liberation forces, including a number of armored vehicles, field mortars, recoilless rifles, artillery pieces in Mindanao and Sulu. F-86 jet aircraft, helicopters, and light observation planes have been shot down in combat zones and PH ships damaged by rebel automatic weapons.

The expenditure on thousands of artillery shells and ammunition in military operations by the AFP has drained the country's dollar reserves heavily. Ammunition, a critical item, is paid for in dollars and a single shell costs as much as \$100. It is not surprising why Marcos has repeatedly emphasized the export, not only of traditional export products, but also of basic food items such as native fruits and fish to the detriment of domestic consumers.

Viewing these conditions, it is wishful thinking to hope for an upheaval in the military establishment that could lead to the overthrow of the Marcos ruling clique and its replacement by some kind of representative democratic government. Since those who enter the AFP are driven by material considerations and self-serving motives, their political consciousness is practically nil.

The most that they can possibly achieve is the replacement of Marcos by another puppet or by a ruling junta under the aegis of the US embassy and JUSMAG. The Ramos faction looms as the group most likely to receive US backing should the deterioration of the political and economic situation prompt the US to replace Marcos with a more able and acceptable puppet. (PC Chief Ramos is closely associated with the US Armed Forces brass in the Pentagon and JUSMAG, and has an apparently "spotless" record of public life and a sizeable following in the ground forces and among PMA-trained officers.)

Undoubtedly, the attitude of individual members of the armed forces constitutes an important factor in the national democratic struggle. But it would be naive to assume that the majority of AFP personnel will play an active and positive role in support of the present historical struggle against fascism and imperialism in the country.

Low morale, passivity in battle and refusal to fight may well be their only contribution to the national democratic cause -- a phenomenon already taking place in many parts of the country, especially in Mindanao and Sulu. ●

Interview with an NPA cadre



March 29, this year, being the fifth anniversary of the establishment of the New People's Army, LIBERATION thought it appropriate to give the readers a closer look at the NPA, how it carries out political and military work in a particular province. Our correspondent journeyed to Central Luzon, where he was able to make contact with the NPA. An NPA cadre — a political officer of a squad who gave his name only as "Kasamang Tonyo" — granted him an interview somewhere in Pampanga. The text of the interview has been translated into English from its original Pilipino and Pampango.

LIBERATION: To start with a general question, what is the NPA and what does it do?

KASAMANG TONYO: The New People's Army is the main organization of the Communist Party of the Philippines for waging armed struggle, which is the principal form of struggle at the present stage of the Philippine revolution. Revolution is mainly capturing and defending political power, and this cannot be done without armed struggle. The NPA is the arm with which the people and the Party wield the gun. That is why we call it a people's army.

This does not mean, however, that all we do is fight in the battlefield. Besides being a fighting force, each NPA unit also engages in propaganda and production work. The NPA helps the people, particularly the peasants in the countryside, build their own democratically chosen local governments.

Another important task of the NPA is to mobilize the peasants to implement a revolutionary land reform program aimed at ultimately abolishing feudalism.

Q. You mentioned local govern-

ments. How are these set up here in Pampanga?

A. When we speak of local governments, we mean people's government on the barrio level. Of course the Barrio Council still exists in most barrios, but it is essentially an instrument of the ruling classes, especially the landlords. It does not serve the real interests of the barrio people. That is why our policy is to break its political influence in the barrio, and if possible, to win over members who are not diehards.

There are two ways of organizing a barrio and setting up a local government. A cadre may first form a Barrio Organizing Committee (BOC) from among the poor peasants and other progressive individuals. When this develops and its political influence is established in the bar-



rio, this becomes the Barrio Revolutionary Committee (BRC). Or, we may start by forming mass organizations of peasants, youth and women. When these develop and become effective in mobilizing the barrio people and helping them solve their

problems, their leaders form the BRC.

Organizationally, the aim is to set up the BRC as a genuine local government to take the place of the reactionary Barrio Council.

Here in Central Luzon we now lay stress on forming mass organizations first, towards building the BRC, although in some instances we organize BOCs at the same time that mass organizations are set up.

In either case, the real test is how effective these mass organizations and BOCs are in mobilizing the people to effectively solve their problems. This is the main function of local government, isn't it?

Only when the BOC or the people's organizations have proven themselves is the BRC established.

Q. What are the principal problems of the people here in Pampanga?

A. When we talk of people's problems in Pampanga, and in the rest of Central Luzon, we should start with the extremely low wages

of the agricultural workers in the sugar haciendas and the landless tenant farmers who cultivate the ricelands of big landlords.

Many sugarcane workers get as low as 4 pesos a day. Besides the low wages, working conditions are harsh and work is only seasonal. Workers living in the sugar haciendas are not allowed to use the land for other crops to augment their meager income.

On the other hand, the landless tenants who work in the ricelands are subjected to feudal exploitation suffered by poor peasants elsewhere. Crop sharing here is usually 50-50, or 70-30 if the ten-

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ant shoulders all the expenses for planting and harvesting. In some places here, there is the "buwisan" system, where the tenant pays 15 to 20 cavans of rice per hectare cultivated.

In areas where the "buwisan" is used, our aim in the organized barrios is the reduction of land rent to a maximum of only 6 cavans per hectare. Where the percentage method of crop sharing prevails, we aim at a maximum of 15 percent of the harvest for the landlord.

There is also usury, unpaid menial services and the thousand and one ways the landlords cheat and exploit the landless peasants.

Only a thorough-going agrarian revolution can liquidate the age-old exploitation and oppression suffered by our brother peasants.

Q. What do you mean by agrarian revolution?

A. This is the revolutionary

land reform program of the NPA. To be more precise, the NPA propagates the program and organizes the peasants, and the peasants themselves, through their collective revolutionary action, implement it.

The minimum demand of our program is the reduction of land rent and abolition of usury. Its maximum demand is the confiscation of the lands of big oppressive landlords and the redistribution of these to the landless peasants.

Q. You mentioned the agricultural workers who get low wages. How can their condition be improved?

A. Right now, in Pampanga we are devoting a lot of effort to organizing the sugarcane workers so that they can effectively demand higher wages. The lowest paid in this area get 4 pesos a day. Some get ₦6 a day, which is the legal minimum wage for agricultural workers, but still inadequate for even subsistence living. Our immediate demand in the large haciendas is for a ₦12 daily wage. Workers in some haciendas we organized are already receiving this.

Q. What is your policy with respect to landlords? How about those landlords who are willing to cooperate with you?

A. We make a distinction between landlords who are really oppressive and landlords who are moderate or enlightened. In an area where there are haciendas with eight or ten landlords, for example, we do not go against all the landlords at once. First, we analyze each landlord and the conditions of his workers or tenants. We pick the most oppressive landlord whose ten-

ants are the most exploited. He becomes our primary target for the anti-feudal struggle in the area. When he gives in to the demands of the poor peasants or agricultural workers in his hacienda, the other landlords will certainly hear of this, and they will know it was the NPA that organized the peasants and rural workers. When this happens, most of the landlords will be more easily convinced to improve the conditions of their tenants or laborers.

Here in Pampanga, and the rest of Central Luzon, the peasants and farm workers have a long tradition of struggle against feudal oppression, and the landlords also know this. In many cases, the landlords grant the tenants' demands before



the conflict reaches the shooting stage. In some instances, however, oppressive landlords play tough and use their private armies or call in PC soldiers, in which case the NPA resorts to such military means as ambushes.

In general we rely more on political work and the unity of the peasants to obtain gains in the anti-feudal struggle.

Q. How have the government's "Samahang Nasyon" and "Masagana 99" projects fared in Pampanga?

A. Both have been big failures here. In general, no government project in connection with the peasants will ever succeed here. This is because the peasants of Central Luzon have a strong distrust of the government, learning as they have from decades of deception, brutalization and "anti-dissident" military suppression directed against them.

In the case of the "Samahang Nasyon", it has not helped the peasants and rural workers in any way. It has even become an added source of oppression, since it has monopolized the sale of much-needed but costly fertilizers, insecticides and herbicides. It has become a marketing network for the giant foreign firms which produce these farm chemicals.

As for the "Masagana 99", it has only sunk the farmers and peasants deeper in debt. Under this scheme a

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loan of ₱700 per hectare is allowed by the rural bank, but only ₱320 is released in cash. The rest -- ₱380 -- is automatically deducted as payment for fertilizers and other expensive farm chemicals, whether or not the farmer wants to buy these. And these are all debts the peasant is forced to pay back later.

Q. How about US imperialism -- how do you explain its workings to the barrio people?

A. The people here can easily see the nature of US imperialism and the way it dominates our economy because the sugar industry is very much a part of Central Luzon. The people understand that the prices and "quotas" of sugar we export are dictated by the imperialists. Right now, for instance, the domestic price of sugar is very high and there is a nationwide artificial shortage despite the fact that we grow a lot of sugarcane. The people understand that this anomaly is caused by US imperialism, which is importing most of our raw sugar and reselling it as refined sugar or other products at high world prices.

Q. How do you wage armed struggle in Central Luzon?

A. Our style of fighting here is similar to that of NPA units in other regions. Because the enemy is stronger than us militarily, we avoid decisive clashes and pitched battles. We concentrate on attacking relatively weak and isolated units of the enemy.

The initiative is in our hands

because we determine when and where to launch tactical offensives against the enemy. It is the NPA that ambushes the government troops and not the other way around.

Other factors which give us the initiative are our familiarity with the terrain -- since most of our Red fighters have lived here all their lives -- and the strong support we enjoy from the barrio people. From experience, we can say that the analogy between the fish in the water and the guerrilla among the masses is entirely true. The government also knows this, that is why its so-called anti-dissident campaign consists mainly of trying to scare the barrio people away from the NPA by means of murder, torture, robbery, arson and other such terror tactics.

Our basic unit is the squad. When launching ambushes and other operations, three squads usually join up to form a platoon. During big operations against the enemy, we concentrate several platoons to hit at the enemy.

Besides the NPA regulars formed into squads, we have guerrillas active in this region. They also carry out ambushes and raids, sometimes in coordination with NPA regulars.

Each well-organized barrio also has a people's militia, which is formed and guided by the NPA unit operating nearby. The members of the militia come from the barrio and they function as the barrio's defense forces.

Military work is always coordinated with our political and organizational work. In general we disperse to carry on political work a-



mong the masses in the countryside, and we concentrate our forces to stage ambushes against the AFP troops which come to harm the barrio folk or pursue us.

Q. How about the BSDUs or CHDFs -- what is your policy toward them?

A. At first, we went all out to fight the BSDUs. But later we shifted our policy when we found out that not all the BSDU or CHDF members were die-hards and against us. In fact, some actually defected to our side and brought with them their weapons.

The formation of BSDUs also means that more arms find their way into the hands of the people, since BSDUs are issued arms. In some cases, we even ask some advanced elements in the barrios to join the BSDUs in order to pass on their arms to us.

There have been instances when BSDU members gave us ammunition and valuable information on AFP and BSDU plans.

Most likely, only about 10 percent of all BSDU members in this region are diehard pro-government and actively help the dictatorship. The rest are neutral or they actively sympathize with our cause and help us.

Even during encounters some BSDU members manage to help. An incident

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which happened about a year ago is revealing. A four-man NPA unit was surrounded by some 200 BSDU and PC men in a cane field. The field was set on fire to force out the Red fighters. The NPA unit shifted position and managed to communicate with some sympathetic BSDU members with the surrounding force. The NPA fighters exchanged signals with the BSDU men. And when they finally broke out of the field, the BSDU men merely fired their guns in the air, allowing the Red fighters to withdraw unharmed.

Q. We have heard a lot about people's justice. How is this dispensed?

A. In general, it is the barrio people who determine who their enemies are, what crimes these have committed, and what punishment is to be given to these bad elements. The NPA, in most cases, only helps to capture the criminals and mete out the punishment demanded by the barrio people.

The barrio folk know exactly who the criminals are -- they have lists of the PC agents and informers, the cattle rustlers and thieves, the landlords' spies, and other bad elements. They also know the punishment these criminals deserve.

In some instances, the barrio people themselves capture and punish these bad elements. Last year, for example, the militia of a Pampanga barrio trapped and captured seven "Konkees" who were guilty of murder and rape, punished them, and gave their M-16 rifles to the NPA.

Q. How about the women in the barrios -- what role do they play in the armed struggle?

A. The women in the barrios help

Don't pay taxes!

MANILA -- Don't pay taxes to the Marcos dictatorship!

This was the call issued by a movement of anti-martial law citizens before the March 15 deadline for filing income tax returns expired.

The call, intended as the start of a citizens' drive for the non-payment of all kinds of taxes, was

a lot. They do courier work, and help in logistics. They also help the men in production -- planting and harvesting.

Their role becomes crucial especially during intense military suppression in the barrios. During such situations, the menfolk are usually ordered not to leave the house. It is the women who go out to observe the movements of the PC soldiers and collect valuable information. They also carry on the work in the fields when the men cannot go out.

In some instances, they also participate in the fighting, as when a woman partisan played a vital role in the surprise attack on two marines on board a train in Pampanga. The woman singlehandedly shot dead two marine passengers and took two rifles and a pistol, while her male companion explained to the other passengers the purpose of their act.

Barrio women are also active in the NPA's medical corps, as doctors and nurses.

Women in many barrios organized by the NPA have their own mass organizations to deal with problems special to their sector. ●

contained in thousands of leaflets which mysteriously appeared in many churches and other public places in Greater Manila.

The leaflets, whose authorship has not yet been openly identified or acknowledged, continue to be distributed in the cities and provinces.

"Our taxes are spent by the dictatorship largely on the military; through terrorism it hopes to maintain artificial peace and order," the leaflets said.

The damage inflicted by the dictatorship on the people lies not only in extensive terrorism, but also in the falsehoods peddled by the Marcos propaganda machinery, the leaflets also pointed out.

By paying taxes, "we shall only help promote and prolong the people's sufferings and maintain the rule of the dictatorship".

The leaflets called on the taxpayers to show their protest in any form, if possible by not paying the many taxes imposed on them.

"If we cannot avoid paying because of the guns pointed at our heads by the dictator, there are many ways of reducing the amount we are required to pay. The rich and powerful have been doing this for years; why can't we do the same?"

Meanwhile, people in the provinces have been showing increasing resistance to the regime's tax methods of collection.

Many complained that tax agents were making arbitrary and excessive property evaluations, taxing even poultry, livestock and fruit trees.

Thousands who were previously exempted because their incomes were too small are now forced to file income tax returns.

Frequently, the tax burden is made even heavier because local governments, encouraged by the dictatorship, also add their own taxes.

In many areas in Central Luzon, each head of family filing an income tax return is forced to pay an additional ₱10, with no explanation given for this fee.

In Ilocos Sur, according to a report, tax forms were being sold to taxpayers at exorbitant prices. In one town the mayor was blackmarketing tax forms for ₱30 a piece.

In Bangue, Abra, on the other hand, market vendors marched to the local office of the Bureau of Internal Revenue, demanding a stop to the collection of excessive fees and taxes. ●



TEACHERS...

(From page 1)

pay.

"A teacher is lucky if he spends only a peso a day on fare to and from work and other errands. He is luckier if he owns the roof over his head and the land on which it stands. For if not, and he is the only breadwinner in his family, goodbye to peace of mind, professional advancement, efficiency and respectability...."

Just look:

Monthly Pay.....P400.00
 Payroll deductions:
 Retirement premium.....P22.00
 Insurance premium...P12.00
 Medicare premium...P 3.75
 P 37.75
 Take home pay.....P362.25
 Fixed bills:
 Apartment rental..P130.00
 Light.....P 25.00
 Water.....P 5.00
 Transportation fare.....P 30.00
 Shellane fuel.....P 20.00
 Medicine, contributions, clothes, etc.....P 52.00
 P262.00
 Prime Need:
 FOOD.....P100.00

"For a family of four, husband and wife earn. If they do, they'll have to hire a maid at P60-P80 a month. What about her food? And if the children are already going to school?"

"THIS IS HOW BADLY teachers need salary adjustments even if it's only P50 across the board. The papers say that patrolmen with free uniforms and other advantages will be given P100 across the board. Teachers wonder why they who still have to buy their own devices and other visual aids, and who work far into the night, cannot be given the same consideration."

"The adjustment was promised for the beginning of this fiscal year. Somehow hope was nurtured, only to be dampened with rumors that the POWERS are considering only January and finally -- dashing hopes to the ground -- that it may even be April, 1974."

"Can half-empty stomachs bear much longer? Can teachers teach well, trying to budget on less than a shoestring in the face of high prices?"

"This is AN APPEAL for realistic adjustments and soon. For as the

saying goes, "Aanhin pa ang damo kung patay na ang kabayo? (What good is grass to a dead horse?)"

Like most government employees, teachers have not received the P50 cost-of-living allowance announced by the regime when it granted price increases to the big oil companies.

Some teachers who thought that they would finally get a P50 cost-of-living allowance for March were told that the amount had already been deducted as "voluntary contributions" to help finance the expensive building to be used for the coming "Miss Universe" contest, informants said.

The building, now under construction beside the Cultural Center, is a pet project of Imelda Marcos.

The teachers also complained that a day's salary is frequently deducted from their pay envelopes without explanation, except to be told that this is done on "orders from above". (BMP) ©

PC terrorizes Cagayan folk

Government troops have intensified their campaign of terrorism against the people of the Cagayan Valley, following victories by the New People's Army in Isabela and neighboring provinces, Balita ng Malayang Pilipinas reported.

The regime's soldiers have resorted to murder, rape, torture, arson and other crimes to terrorize the rural folk, especially those suspected of supporting the NPA.

In some towns, residents who refuse to cooperate with the regime's "anti-dissident" drive are liquidated by "licensed" gunmen of the AFP.

One Isabela businessman identified in initial reports as "Mike" was recently killed by these gunmen. He was found dead from bullet wounds in his Volkswagen car parked near the AFP's Northeast Command headquarters.

The stepped-up repression by the AFP comes in the wake of mounting losses from NPA tactical offensives and the rapidly growing support for the NPA among the barrio people.

Not long ago two companies of the combined 13th ROT (Philippine Army) and Task Force Saraway were wiped out by a 70-man NPA detachment in the jungles of Santiago, Isabela.

The large NPA force was led by former PC Lt. Victor Corras, according to Isabela residents. ©

US giants penetrate RP banks

Giant US banks are slowly taking over the local banking system and dominating the credit and financial institutions.

This was the gist of a report in The Nationalist Businessmen's Review, an underground publication of patriotic Filipino businessmen.

In its March issue, the Review exposed the growing penetration of US and other foreign banks into the country, as part of the Marcos dictatorship's policy of attraction of foreign investments. However, not only do these US banks infiltrate the banking system, they even are given preferential treatment by the Central Bank.

The report said that the CB does not require US banks to put up capital when opening local branches. Guarantee of the head office is all that is necessary and mere book-keeping entry suffices.

"From this," the Review asserted, "no actual dollars enter the country".

This set-up is extremely disadvantageous for Filipino banks. "At present, US banks are allowed to accept Filipino deposits; in this manner their resources increase. These are then loaned to foreign businessmen first and even to foreign banks. Upon remittance of profits, this amounts to foreign expenditures."

In short, with the hard-earned money of Filipino depositors, US banks deplete local reserves, are able to repatriate Filipino money in dollars, without investing even a single centavo.

Marcos' policy of requiring a P100 million capitalization for commercial banks was requested by the CB-IMP group; unable to meet the rule, commercial banks were forced to "accept" foreign equity investments.

The Review concluded, saying that "Not only do US banks deplete Philippine economy, but they also have begun to dominate the local banking system because of their bigger financial resources. With Marcos' policy on the local banking system and foreign investments, local banks, Filipino entrepreneurs, and Filipino depositors are under the virtual control of US financial giants", the Review ended. ©

Unity in armed resistance

With the imposition of a fascist dictatorship, armed resistance had stopped being an alternative for those who oppose the Marcos regime. It has become a necessity -- born out of the aggravating economic and social conditions under the Marcos tyranny.

As a growing number of people realize that Marcos will not give up his power voluntarily, they are becoming more courageous each day in defying all forms of suppression. No longer do people talk about peaceful change. Rather, they are more than ever determined to achieve one resolve: the overthrow of the Marcos dictatorship.

On this the fifth anniversary of the New People's Army, the broad masses of our people and other anti-dictatorship forces take courage and derive inspiration from the resoluteness of the people's army.

Together with other armed and support groups, the New People's Army seeks to help build the people's unity for a common front against a common enemy. In Mindanao, the victories of the Bangsa Moro Army have served as a fine example on how armed resistance unites the oppressed minorities. Similarly, the successes of the New People's Army have fanned the flames of resistance and forged the solidarity of the peasants in Northern Luzon and other parts of the country. These various struggles of

our compatriots have served to raise the people's unity in the resistance against the common enemy.

To overthrow the Marcos dictatorship which relies on brute force to maintain itself and which enjoys the support of US imperialism, there is a need to form as many armed groups as possible.

Patriotic leaders with sizeable followings must take the initiative in building such people's contingents in their provinces, towns and barrios. They can organize and gradually expand the ranks of their fighters, build up their military resources and launch offensives against the enemy. These operations contribute to the over-all resistance and underline the unity with other resistance groups.



Barrio captains can first organize the barrio folk and slowly link up with adjacent barrios. Town mayors and provincial governors can secretly organize among other officials, conduct anti-fascist propaganda among the local police and isolate the few pro-Marcos diehard elements.

There are innumerable ways of building resistance armies. Our experience during the Japanese occupation proved that the people's forces can be set up and military operations can be effectively done when patriotic leaders dare take up arms and join the forefront of popular resistance.

Armed resistance against a common enemy is the highest basis of political unity which all must strive to attain. The emergence of anti-fascist armies enhances the people's unity and hastens the downfall of the Marcos dictatorship.

The Preparatory Commission of the National Democratic Front seeks to help bring about this unity and supports the initiative of patriotic leaders in forming their own anti-dictatorship armies.

The destruction of the enemy's forces will surely precede the building of a truly democratic Philippines carved out of the people's unity through persistence in armed resistance. ●

Defeat the fascist army!

To overthrow the Marcos dictatorship, the people must build their army and destroy the fascist troops of the regime.

In the face of intensifying repression, different armed groups have emerged to fight for the people's cause. The New People's Army and the Bangsa Moro Army continue to expand while reaping victories in the armed resistance. The Filipino Freedom Fighters has signified its objective of dislodging Marcos by armed force.

These are the sinews of the Filipino people's movement to liberate themselves from the Marcos dictatorship.

In a desperate effort to contain the people's armed resistance, Marcos is squandering the people's money to maintain and expand his mercenary army. However, because it has become too expensive sustaining a completely parasitic army, Marcos and his American advisers have come up with the idea of a "citizen ar-

my" to complement the regular army. The formation of such army is nothing but a scheme to conscript more citizens to replace the mounting AFP casualties and defend his regime -- at a cheaper cost. In the meantime, the regular puppet army is still steadily being expanded.

How can we all help frustrate this evil plan of Marcos?

First of all, we must dissuade our relatives, friends and associates from joining the AFP. We can explain to them that even big salaries cannot pay for risking one's life in defending the interests of Marcos and his corrupt generals. We can ask our friends and relatives in the military service to help in various ways, like giving intelligence information, ammunition, guns and other equipment to the people's forces. They can be asked to organize secret groups within the Marcos army to conduct propaganda among the ordinary soldiers and sabotage military opera-

tions.

Patriotic soldiers should be made aware of the possibility of defecting to the revolutionary forces, after the example of Lta. Corpus and Tagamolila. Such an act not only diminishes the dictatorship's troops, but also expands the ranks of the people's forces.

The militant expression of opposition by the Revolutionary League of Officers and Men in the AFP is another measure of the growing ranks of patriotic soldiers who see through the dictatorship's pretenses and utter bankruptcy.

The Preparatory Commission of the National Democratic Front calls on patriotic soldiers in the AFP to refuse being party to the crimes of dictator Marcos. They must turn their guns against the people's oppressors. They must join the true armed forces of the people and help fire the final volleys that will overthrow the people's enemies. ●