

Balita

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ALLIANCE FOR PHILIPPINE CONCERNS (APC)

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Filipinos Step Up Protest



Youthful protesters in San Francisco hold placards expressing the demands of majority of Filipinos, both young and old.

Human billboards lit the street facing the Philippine Consulate in San Francisco as men, women and children marched with colorful letters on their shoulders and chanted ardent slogans: "Stop Repression," "Stop US Aid!"

The urgent calls made by the group of 40 Filipinos and Americans in the Bay Area, that afternoon of May 3 found vigorous echoes in other cities of North America. Militant protests broke out simultaneously on the first days of May in key cities like Washington, New York, Los Angeles, Chicago, Minneapolis, Toronto, Montreal, and as far as Honolulu---bringing into focus

growing opposition to US policy of increased economic and military aid to a declining regime.

Pickets, forums and vigils were launched by various Filipino groups and other support organizations in solidarity with the massive May Day demonstration by labor in the Philippines. The protests also marked the peak of an intense nationwide campaign, led by the Alliance for Philippine Concerns (APC) to halt military aid to a repressive and authoritarian government, and to counter what many see as a policy of escalating US intervention.

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2nd Lobby Day : Bigger and Better

The second nationally-coordinated Lobby Day, May 2, drew 80 people to Washington, D.C. in a major lobbying effort considered bigger and better than last year. Armed with determination to end all US military aid to the Marcos regime, participants to the Philippine Human Rights Lobby-sponsored event struck 450 offices in the House of Representatives and 100 in the Senate, talking to as many as 275 Congressional aides.

Coming from Ohio, New York City, Boston, Philadelphia, Norfolk and some cities in Maryland, lobbyists said they encountered very little hostility

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Health Campaign Snowballs

"It is not the size but the vision that is important ... it is vision that produces results!"

So spoke outstanding woman-doctor Mita Pardo de Tavera, referring to the small community-based programs which she has helped nurture and develop. Currently on a fast-clipped campaign to bring health issues closer to the health professionals in North America, Dr. Tavera continues to stir excitement with her presentation on health, which includes an input on the national situation, an open forum and slide shows called "The Filipino Child" and "Symptoms of Decay".

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Reagan's Proxy War in the Philippines

Reagan's proxy war against the people of Nicaragua has suffered a major setback with the defeat of his proposed \$14 million aid package to the contras. To the Reagan administration, however, this simply means that they lost a battle, for Reagan himself has vowed to continue the war until the people of Nicaragua "say Uncle."

Reagan's attitude is alarming, since it shows that this President has chosen to ignore the wishes of the American people who had to put tremendous pressure on Congress to reject aid to Reagan's Contras. Although it is yet too early to tell whether the American people will ultimately prevail over Reagan's policies, their opposition to this proxy war against Nicaragua gives some hope not just to the people of Nicaragua, but to other peoples around the world, where Reagan has been quietly and sometimes secretly waging similar wars.

One such proxy and secret war on the other side of the Pacific is the war in the Philippines. Reagan's war in the Philippines is somewhat less obvious; it is dressed up to appear as support for a legitimate government of the people. But it is not difficult to see beyond this window dressing. Since when is a fascist dictatorship ever a legitimate government of a people?

Reagan's proxy war in the Philippines through the Marcos dictatorship is at once vicious and pernicious. Under the veil of aiding a beleaguered ally and a legitimate regime, the U.S. has been able to increase the size of the Philippine military from 60,000 prior to 1972, to 260,000 today. Since the Philippines is already host to 26 U.S. military installations including the largest naval and air force bases outside of the U.S., the increased size of the Philippine military can only serve one purpose: increased militarization and military oppression

against the very same people Marcos is supposed to represent.

If Marcos had the confidence and support of the Filipino people, there would be no reason to have a military force of this size. With the Philippines now besieged by its gravest economic crisis, it is unlikely that Marcos can maintain his military, were its budget not generously shared by the U.S.

In fact, as Congress prepared to defeat Reagan's proposed aid to the Contras, Reagan's military budget for the Marcos dictatorship has been quietly making its way through the legislative process. This military aid package, which comes to \$270 million, should be scheduled for a floor vote in both houses very soon.

It is an outrage that despite the grave outcry today over budget deficits, Reagan considers it appropriate to propose a 150% increase in his military budget for the Marcos dictatorship. Yet it took overwhelming public awareness and opposition to defeat Reagan's \$14 million aid to the Contras. By keeping the \$270 million military aid package to Marcos at a low profile, Reagan obviously hopes to slip this one by Congress and keep his proxy war in the Philippines going.

Redoubled efforts from everyone are necessary if we are to defeat Reagan's war budget for the Philippines. Reagan's support of Marcos should be exposed for what it really is -- a proxy war against the Filipino people.

We appeal to the American people to speak out, too, in behalf of the Filipino people; let us put an end to the Reagan-Marcos war in the Philippines against the Filipino people. Let us act before that invaluable friendship between the Filipino people and the American people becomes irreparably eroded.



Balita is Born

The second half of the 80s will be a turbulent period in the Philippines as the Marcos regime persists in ruling, decree after repressive decree, a highly-awakened nation. And with it, Philippine overseas work and solidarity building in North America will expectedly increase several fold. As basic issues come into sharper focus, as the clash between the dictatorship and the democratic forces heightens, more and more individuals, groups and organizations in this hemisphere will make the Philippines their central concern.

The birth of **Balita** must be seen in such a setting.

Balita is a tribute to the organizing work that has developed in North America in the recent past. The growth of organizations advocating democracy and national sovereignty in the Philippines, and the sharp increase in their activities have made possible the birth of this paper.

In the lengthy, tempering years of martial rule, several groups emerged in North America, hoping to lend their voices to the heroic struggle of a people rising out of a colonial and feudal past. Some organizations survived, others were unrooted. But because of events in the homeland and determined efforts of Filipinos and Americans, there has been a rekindling of

commitment, a re-orientation to the democratic interests of Filipinos in the homeland.

APC celebrates the advent of new groups and associations, encouraging a wide range of activities and multiplicity of efforts towards the building of enduring solidarity ties.

Balita comes as a vehicle of communication --- for Filipinos who are drawn to participate in the struggle for justice and democracy in the Philippines, as well as for North Americans who wish to give that struggle their wholehearted support.

As a voice therefore of similarly-oriented groups and organizations, **Balita** will chronicle the significant activities of the period, especially events and campaigns of APC member-organizations. It will also act as a forum for the sharing of advanced ideas and experiences in organizing. Lastly, it will help provide concrete basis for action by serving as a vehicle of accurate information and updating on events in the homeland.

We begin with a small, intrepid voice. But in time, with the consistent and generous support of APC member groups, we hope to develop into a vibrant medium that will speak in harmony with millions of Filipinos in their resolute struggle to be free.



Those among us who have sent countless letters, cables and telegrams to Ferdinand Marcos, defense secretary Enrile--- sometimes with copies to President Reagan and Elliot Abrams--- have often wondered how many more we will have to send before the political detainees we are writing for will be released. As with numerous groups around the world who eagerly await news of released political detainees, **Balita** and APC members rejoice when we finally move a name from the "Detained" to the "Released" column. These are some recent "success" stories:

Karl Gaspar, a church lay leader, arrested March, 1983, and released Feb. 9, 1985, when charges of inciting to a rebellion were dropped. After his arrest, Karl was brought to a "safehouse" for interrogation. He might have been "salvaged" (the military euphemism for summary execution), had international and local pressure not been immediately brought to bear after his disappearance became known. Although arrested on the afternoon of March 26, the military denied knowledge of his whereabouts for the first ten days. On April 2, under much pressure on authorities to account for his whereabouts, the military admitted that Karl was their prisoner. It took another week of searching camps in Davao and Manila before his family was able to locate him. While in detention, Karl kept in touch through letters, artwork, and

detainees' handicrafts sent to support groups abroad.

Behn Cervantes and **Lino Brocka**, internationally-known stage and film directors were arrested Jan. 29, 1985 along with 134 others as they joined rallies in support of the transport workers who staged simultaneous strikes in Manila, Legaspi, Davao, and Cebu. Both Cervantes and Brocka were released February 28. The arrests of Cervantes and Brocka created a stir in the international entertainment industry since both are respected and well known. Although Marcos issued a Preventive Detention Order (PDA) to keep them, their relatively short detention is a result of both local and international pressure.

Lean Alejandro, secretary-general of the Coalition of Organizations for the Realization of Democracy (CORD), and **J.V. Bautista**, member of the National Council, Nationalist Alliance for Justice, Freedom and Democracy (NAJFD), were arrested Feb. 13, 1985, as they were negotiating with a police general to let student marchers disperse peacefully. Alejandro and Bautista are well known among APC organizations here in the U.S. and Canada. Bautista was on a speaking tour of the U.S. and Canada last year, while Alejandro had just completed a similar tour in January, 1985. International pressure played a significant part in the release of Alejandro and Bautista on April 9. Word

about their pending release first came from the Washington office of U.S. Senator John Kerry, D-Mass., which indicated that Marcos had promised Kerry, during an official visit, to release the student leaders. Prior to his visit to the Philippines, Senator Kerry was briefed by the Philippine Human Rights Lobby on the cases of Alejandro, Bautista, and other political detainees. Another detainee who was arrested along with Alejandro and Bautista, is **Boni de Luna**, chairman of the Alliance of Concerned Transport Organizations (ACTO). De Luna still remains in detention.

There are, of course, many more who are unjustly detained in Marcos' detention camps. Many among them, like De Luna and Mila Aguilar, continue to be held on unsubstantiated charges. **Balita** urges readers to continue their letters in behalf of these political detainees. Persistence works!

A political detainee is the mirror of the Filipino today. Caught in the prison built by those who want to perpetuate themselves in power, he agonizes through the pain, seething in anger, feeling helpless and powerless at times, but ultimately, always struggling to keep his dignity intact...

---Karl Gaspar

Across the Nation

May 3 Demonstrations

An earnest campaign by members of the Alliance for Philippine Concerns (APC) and other allied organizations to end repression and cut all military aid to the Philippines peaked on May 3, with a wave of protests in key US cities. Following are some of the major activities held on the first week of May, representing a significant development in the resurgence of a broad movement for democracy in the Philippines.

Los Angeles

On Wilshire Blvd., city of Los Angeles, APC member organizations and other friendly groups picketed for a full hour, around 4:00 p.m., as consulate officials were rushing out of their offices. To hundreds of passersby, the speakers chronicled the recent violations of human rights by US-backed military forces in the Philippines. They underscored the murder of Fr. Tullio Favali and hailed the unity of Filipinos and Americans in their determined efforts to build a just and humane order. Marching as a solid block in LA were members of Solidarity with the Nationalist Alliance (SNA), Health Network for Philippine Concerns (HNPC), Ecumenical Fellowship for Justice and Peace in the Philippines, SAMAPIL, CAMD, and Movement for a Free Philippines (MFP).

Chicago

In Chicago, it was a two hour picket that found its mark at the doors of the Philippine consulate. Filipino organizations had earlier created a Chicago Campaign Committee Against US Intervention, Aid and Repression, and merged forces at various campaign activities. At the picketline of May 3, they distributed statements, fact sheets, and the **Philippine Forum** newsletter of the local Filipino organization bearing the same name.

Minneapolis

Meanwhile, in the clean and serene city of Minneapolis, as many as 75 protesters converged at the Government Center and marched one mile to the Federal Building to decry aid as a scheme to strengthen Marcos' rule of terror. Leading the march and picket was a broad coalition of organizations united around Philippine issues, among them the Philippine Study Group of Minnesota (PSGM), Hunger Action

Coalition, Friends for a Non-Violent World, Third World Institute, Women Against Nuclear Madness, Church and Laity Concerned (CALC), Honeywell Project, Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, and several representatives of solidarity committees of different countries. While several speakers took turns denouncing the machinery of repression and exposing US aid as a form of intervention, good media coverage was provided by radio KFAI and Channel 11-TV. Main speakers during the picket were Gary King of Amnesty International, Polly Mann of Women Against Nuclear Madness, and the PSGM coordinator.

New York

In New York, local organizations mobilized 25 people to give up a day's work on May 2 and motor six hours to Washington DC, there to bolster the activities of the Philippine Human Rights Lobby.

Among those who helped put together the motorcade-protest were members of the Assembly of Filipinos for a Democratic Philippines (KAPATID), Ecumenical Committee for Philippine Concerns (ECPC), Filipino Lawyers for Human Rights (FLHR), Philippine-American Group Advocates for Social Action (PAG-ASA), and other community organizations in New York City.

Washington

In Washington, about 90 people--- driven indoors by heavy rains--- shifted plans of holding a picket at the White House on May 2 and held a vigil at the United Methodist Building on 100 Maryland Avenue. The event, sponsored by the Church Coalition for Human Rights in the Philippines (CCHRP), was offered on behalf of present-day victims of repression. CCHRP chair Ruth Harris gave a moving homily on the need to support the Filipino people's

struggle towards full liberation and to remember today's martyrs as those who have become one with the poor.

Charged with the fire of the previous night, Washington protesters again marched the next day, May 3, in solidarity with the South African people. Five from the Philippine contingent---Doug Cunningham, Patty Wagner, Kathy Silvaggio, Carol Mackey, and Glenh Alcalay---caught public and media attention by suffering arrests. The march of the Philippine contingent was organized by the Philippine Support Committee (PSC), Philippine Workers' Support Committee (PWSC), and the Washington Forum.

New Jersey

Another solidarity rally against apartheid in South Africa, this time in New Jersey, was reinforced by a contingent from the Filipino Association of Rutgers University. CCHRP executive director, Dante Simbulan, spoke to a group of 200 youth activists and related the apartheid question to the urgent issues of repression in the Philippines.

New Haven, Connecticut

At the university campus of Yale in New Haven, Connecticut, the Philippine Support Committee joined a solidarity meeting on May 3, with Central American groups committed to non-intervention.

Hawaii

Twenty protesters picketed the Federal Building in Honolulu on April 30 in solidarity with the KMU protests in the Philippines. Members of the Philippine Workers Support Committee (PWSC) and the Friends of the Filipino People, the organizers of the event, distributed their own statements as well as the Catholic bishop's Committee on Justice and Peace statement on the Philippines.

Looking For Creative Ways

If protest actions seem to be the same old type in your area, you may be able to get a few tips from organizers in Chicago.

All throughout Lent, the Returned Churchworkers of the Philippines, composed of priests, missionaries and lay churchworkers who worked for sometime in the Philippines, marched weekly in silent processions from the Chicago Temple (Methodist) to the Federal Building. Every Wednesday of Lent, a mock coffin symbolizing the pain and anguish of churchworkers in the Philippines, is crowned with a name of a slain churchworker and set at the foot of the Federal Building where a full hour's liturgical service takes place. Scores of passersby have listened and asked for more.

Also during Lent, Filipinos in Chicago formed a contingent to participate in Good Friday

services. Composed of the Philippine Forum, Returned Churchworkers from the Philippines and the Chicago Campaign Committee against Aid and Repression, the contingent joined other Asians in giving a brief statement on the US role in the Philippines. They capped the Philippine part with the singing of "Bayan Ko" and the sharing of 'ampaw' (Filipino puffed rice) to recall the intense hunger and pain of Filipinos in the homeland and to symbolize the desire of overseas Filipinos to partake of their struggle.

Quick to form a Philippine Health and Medical Campaign (PHMC) chapter, Chicago Filipinos gave Dr. Tavera a warm reception and organized a total of 3 forums: one public and two special forums with medical and nursing students. Dr. Tavera was interviewed by Chicago's National Public Radio and well-known TV host Studs Terkel.

The PHMC chapter in Chicago is headed by Dr. Layton Arcenas, and ably assisted by Edna Montemayor, Belen and Edith Asidao.

Another Midwest PHMC was organized in northwestern Indiana following a dinner reception forum with Dr. Rodolfo Jao, Dr. Felipe Chua, Dr. Victor Oyek, Dr. Diego Valenzuela and Pat Huse, RN. A lively interest in the community-based health programs in the Philippines was generated, and the group took up Dr. Tavera's challenge to continue the campaign for alternative health care.

Montreal Work Shifts to High Gear

The Montreal Ad-Hoc Campaign Committee will hold a public forum on May 27 at 7 p.m. at 1205 La Visitation in Montreal with Dr. Mita Pardo de Tavera. The forum is part of a campaign sponsored by the Center for Philippine Concerns (CPC) the Quebec-Philippine Solidarity Committee and the Federation of Filipino-Canadian Association of Canada and Quebec.

In Toronto, the Philippine Human Rights Committee will sponsor Dr. Pardo de Tavera on May 23-25 for a series of speaking engagements. She is scheduled to proceed on May 26 to Ottawa where her stint is being sponsored by a newly organized church-based solidarity group.

Last April, Dr. Tavera visited Winnipeg and spoke before Filipino-Canadian community groups and medical professionals at a forum at the

University of Manitoba.

Anti-US Intervention

The Montreal Committee for Philippine Concerns (CPC) and the Quebec-Philippine Solidarity Committee (QPSC) also participated in a demonstration in protest of US policy in Central America. This was held last May in Quebec City. The CPC and QPSC issued a statement denouncing the Reagan Administration, calling attention to the US bases in the Philippines, the multinational corporations and the abject living conditions of the Filipino people.

Political Prisoners

An ecumenical organization, the Quebec-Philippine Solidarity committee (QPSC), has been active in soliciting signatures to petition the immediate release of Filipino

political prisoners Fr. Jun Evasco, Joel Maglungsod, Ernesto Librado and others. Hundreds of signatures have already been sent to Philippine authorities in behalf of political prisoners.

Film Showings

"Breaking Ground for Freedom", a newly released documentary on the Philippine countryside by a Canadian film group, has already been shown in various places in Montreal. Slide shows, prepared by Canadian supporters who recently visited the Philippines, were also presented in a number of solidarity affairs.

Plans are now underway for the next mobilization in September, 1985 to be launched by the CPC and QPSC in time for the commemoration of the declaration of martial law in the Philippines.

Bishop Antonino Nepomuceno, chairman of the Nuclear-Free Philippines Coalition (NFPC), recently wrote a strongly-worded letter to Pres. Reagan objecting to a secret US plan to deploy nuclear warheads in the Philippines and seven other countries.

The plan, leaked to the press by the NFPC, was contained in a secret report written by William Arkin, director of the Arms Race and Nuclear Weapons and Research Project. The "Contingency Overseas Deployment" report describes US military plans to station nuclear bombs to eight (8) countries, including the Philippines, without the approval of the countries concerned.

The seven other target countries are: Canada, Puerto Rico, Spain, Bermuda, Diego Garcia, Iceland and the Azores.

In the Philippines, Pres. Reagan has authorized the deployment of 32 anti-submarine B-57 nuclear depth bombs, 80 other nuclear naval weapons and 115 more bombs of unspecified types.

US Secret Plan

Warheads Without Our Consent



NY Lobby Group Formed

As part of massive efforts to oppose US aid, Filipino groups and individuals in New York City recently formed a Philippine Human Rights Lobby/New York.

The Lobby organized a discussion-forum on April 29 with Prof. Steve Shalom, a political science professor at the William Paterson College in Wayne, New Jersey. He spoke on the history of the US-Philippine relations and current issues. Shalom is the author of the book "The US and the Philippines: A Case Study on Neo-Colonialism."

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LFS-USA Chapters Formed

Reflecting the dynamism of its youth-members, the newly-organized League of Filipino Students in Berkeley, California set up, as part of a number of ongoing activities, weekly lectures on the Philippines. About 40 to 50 people flock regularly to UC Berkeley to hear speakers from various fields of expertise.

The student organization also puts out its own newsletter, the **Kayumangui**, and as a result of a good educational program, has

been challenged to form a coalition of student groups. This includes the Filipino American Student Organization (Cal State Hayward), the Pilipino American Alliance (UC Berkeley) and the Filipino-American Student Association (City College of San Francisco).

As the first LFS ever organized in the US, LFS-Berkeley has willingly responded to requests from other areas for assistance and a sharing of experiences in student organizing. Encouraged by the swift growth of LFS-Berkeley, students in Chicago recently introduced Midwest's own LFS.

Chicago

Some 50 students from colleges in the Chicago area -- University of Illinois, Triton, Wright, Truman and Northeastern Colleges -- launched LFS-Chicago last April 20, 1985.

Two representatives from each college campus formed a coordinating committee and presented for approval to the body a declaration of principles.

In a spirited discussion over the role of Filipino youth in the US, participants at the launching affirmed their commitment to action for justice and support for the militant youth movements in the Philippines. LFS-Chicago declares that Filipino students in the US cannot remain passive in the face of the harsh realities in the homeland. Thus it hopes to promote greater consciousness about the economic, political and cultural realities in the Philippines as well as strengthen Filipino cultural identity. It will initiate activities involving Philippine issues and act in concert with other groups with similar concerns.

Health continued from p. 1

"Sixty percent of Filipinos die without any medical aid," she cites, "in a country that is one of the largest food producers in the world." Explicit in her talks is the need for a just, alternative health care as the only solution to the present decay.

The response to her talks has been enthusiastic. Doctors and nurses interviewed say they were moved by Dr. Tavera's "sincere effort to awaken and mobilize health professionals to the health needs of our people." Others express the wish that many more would hear of the situation and be moved to action. Still others say they can't wait until they can "get down to the serious business of creating a network of Filipinos concerned and active about health."

Dr. Tavera's tour has reached over a thousand people, mostly doctors and nurses, and by the end of May, will have covered 28 cities and centers in North America. The speaking tour signals the beginning of a national effort to reach out to a broader and more strategic sector of health professionals.

The campaign is sponsored by the Philippine Health and Medical Campaign, the Alliance for Philippine Concerns and other local organizations. Another prominent doctor from the Philippines is set to visit North America in the fall, to further the health campaign and strengthen the network that has recently emerged.

Pressed for suggestions on concrete action for support, Dr. Tavera proposes an "adopt a sister barrio" program which brings concerned people of North American communities in direct contact with grassroots communities in the Philippines.

So appealing were the presentations on health concerns that Senator Milton Marks of California formally commended her work and expressed wishes for her continued success. The mayor of Winnipeg gave her a courtesy call and all of Winnipeg hospitals watched her on closed-circuit TV. Likewise in Columbus, Ohio, an appreciative mayor presented a plaque.

One of the most prominent physicians in the Philippines, Dr. Tavera has received international recognition for

her work in health and human rights, and in 1984 became the first Filipina to sit, together with Mother Teresa of India and Bishop Desmond Tutu, on the International Medical Commission for Health and Human Rights in Geneva.

Meanwhile, officers of various health organizations in the Philippines sent a letter of appeal to all Filipinos in North America "to support the struggles for an improved health and health care for all." Tavera adds: "If only the 1.5 million Filipinos in the US gave a dollar a month, perhaps we could have our own Ministry of Health."

"And if each gave five dollars, perhaps we would be able to run our own government."

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now!

US Church Leaders Oppose Repressive Regime

(Sixty-four American church leaders and human rights advocates recently submitted a statement to the subcommittee on Asian and Pacific affairs of the committee on foreign relations, House of Representatives, urging an end to all forms of economic and political support to the Marcos government. Below are the signatories and excerpts from the statement--Ed.)

"We find it totally unjustifiable that at a time when the administration is proposing deep cuts in spending for the poor and disadvantaged in our own country due to massive deficits, it is requesting more and more of the taxpayers' money for the support of repressive governments like that of Marcos.

"The Marcos government continues to rule in a repressive and arbitrary manner with no genuine accountability to the people.

"We are therefore raising questions about the propriety and morality of the continuing support which the US government provides to the Marcos regime. \$300 million worth of guns, tanks, helicopters, bombs and other equipment have been made available to Marcos by the US government over the last five years in exchange for the use of Clark, Subic and other military bases. Under the guise of maintaining law and order, the Marcos government utilizes US-supplied weapons to intimidate his own people, to stifle dissent and to maim and kill those who oppose or resist it."

Signatories to the Statement

BISHOP EDESEL A. AMMONS, United Methodist Church, West Ohio Conference; BISHOP WALTER F. SULLIVAN, Roman Catholic Church, Richmond, Virginia; BISHOP THOMAS GUMBLETON, Roman Catholic Church, Detroit, Michigan; REV. KENNETH L. TEEGARDEN, General Minister and President, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ); BISHOP JAMES MACE AULT, United Methodist Church, Western Pennsylvania Conference; BISHOP JAMES S. THOMAS, United Methodist Church, East Ohio Conference; REV. ROBERT W. NEFF, General Secretary, Church of the Brethren; R. ROBERT KIMES, Cincinnati District Superintendent, United Methodist Church, West Ohio Conference; JAMES T. DAVIS, Lima District Superintendent, United Methodist Church, West Ohio Conference; REV. WILLIAM SLOAN COFFIN, Senior Minister, Riverside Church, New York City; BISHOP PETER A. ROSAZZA, Auxiliary Bishop, Roman Catholic Church, Archdiocese of Hartford, Connecticut; FR. ROBERT DRINAN S.J., Georgetown University Law Center, Washington D.C.; REV. PAUL E. STUCKEY, Dayton South District Superintendent, United Methodist Church, West Ohio Conference; PROF. ROBERT MCAFEE BROWN, Professor of Theology and Ethics, Pacific School of Religion; JOHN E. MOORE, Chairman, Board of Global Ministries, United Methodist Church; ROBERT Z. ALPERN, Director, Unitarian Universalist

Association of Churches in North America, Washington D.C. office; REV. SYNGMAN RHEE, East Asia Pacific office, Presbyterian Church, USA; FR. JOSEPH J. NANGLE OFM, Associate Director, Conference of Major Superiors of Men, Roman Catholic Church, USA; SR. ANN GORMLY, SND, Associate Director, US Catholic Mission Association; Ms. RUTH M. HARRIS, Chairperson, Church Coalition for Human Rights in the Philippines [CCHRP]; THOMAS L. WEEKS, Vice-chairman, Board of Global Ministries, United Methodist Church, West Ohio Conference; FR. PETER J. CRONIN SSC, US Regional Director, Columban Fathers; Ms. MARY E. HUNT, Co-director, Women's Alliance for Theology, Ethics and Ritual (WATER); FR. JAMES B. MALLEY S.J., Executive Secretary, Jesuit Missions; ROBERT S. BATES, Executive Secretary, Dept. of East Asia and Pacific, Division of Overseas Ministries, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ); FR. KILIAN MCGOWAN CP, Director, Social Concerns Office, Passionist Fathers, USA; REV. LLOYD G. VAN VACTOR, General Secretary, Division of World Service, United Board for World Ministries; S. MICHAEL HAHM, Area Executive Secretary for Asia/Pacific, World Division, General Board of Global Ministries, United Methodist Church; EDWIN M. LUIDENS, Director, East Asia Pacific Office, National Council of Churches, USA; DWAIN C. EPPS, Director, International Affairs, National Council of

Churches, USA; BLAISE LUPO MLM, Co-director, Clergy and Laity Concerned (CALC); RICHARD B. DEATS, Director, Interfaith Activities, Fellowship of Reconciliation; JAMES E. PALM, Director, Stony Point Center, Presbyterian Church, New York; KATHARINE PELLET, Financial Secretary, United Methodist Church, West Ohio Conference; MARGARET EVANS, Local President, United Methodist Women; FR. JOSEPH LAPAUW CIM, Director of Mission Center, Missionhurst-CICM and Justice and Peace Coordinator; JOYCE HAMLIN, Office of Public Policy, Women's Division, General Board of Global Ministries, United Methodist Church; GEORGE E. OGLE, Program Director, Dept. of Social and Economic Justice, Board of Church and Society, United Methodist Church; PHARIS HARVEY, Executive Director, North American Coalition for Human Rights in Korea; VANCE SUMMER JR., Toledo District Superintendent, West Ohio Conference, United Methodist Church; GEORGE S. BROWN, Wilmington District Superintendent, West Ohio Conference, United Methodist Church; JOETHEL JEANNETTE COOPER, Associate Director, Council on Ministries, West Ohio, United Methodist Church; GRAYSON ATHA, Findlay District Superintendent, West Ohio, United Methodist Church; WILLIAM R. VOELKEL, Associate Conference Minister, Chicago Metropolitan Association, United Church of Christ; BENJAMIN

EDWARDS, Athens District Superintendent, West Ohio Conference, United Methodist Church; JOHN L. HICKMAN, First United Methodist Church, West Ohio Conference; PASTOR CHARLES W. HILL, Hilliard United Methodist Church; MAY R. AVEY, West Ohio Conference Board of Global Ministries, United Methodist Church; PHILIP D. BROOKS, Conference Secretary, Global Ministries, West Ohio Conference, United Methodist Church; DORIS J. SHOVER; KATHARINE MISBAUER, SL; WILLIAM NOTTINGHAM, Director, Division of Overseas Ministries, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ); W. STERLING CARY, Conference Minister, Illinois Conference, United Church of Christ; THOMAS J. LIGGETT, President, Christian Theological Seminary, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ); CARL R. SMITH, Synod Executive, Synod of Lincoln Trails, Presbyterian Church, USA; PAUL GREGORY, General Secretary, Mission Division, Board for World Ministries, United Church of Christ; CARLTON WEBER, Executive Director, Ohio Council of Churches; KEENE R. LEBOLD, Associate Executive Director, Ohio Council of Churches; BISHOP ROY SANO, Rocky Mountain Conference, United Methodist Church; and ROBERT C. CAMPBELL, General Secretary, American Baptist Churches, Valley Forge, Pennsylvania.

Filipinos

continued from p. 1

The breadth and scope of the militant protests were the fruits of a three-month campaign to expose US aid to Marcos as a burden, rather than a benefit to the Filipino people. Protesters maintain that US aid only translates to more troops and more guns for repression.

Tagged as the "Campaign Against Aid and Repression," the national project reeled off in February with the circulation of the APC outline of a comprehensive campaign plan that was to peak in May. This was followed by a set of guidelines on lobby work synthesized by the Philippine Human Rights Lobby. A national statement, distributed to various communities in April, discussed the essence of U.S. policy in contrast to the much-publicized Reagan rhetoric of restoring democracy in the Philippines.

Utilizing the campaign as a means to broaden the militant movement, Filipinos and their supporters launched a wide variety of actions, reaching out at each turn to bigger and more strategic communities. Preparations for the peak point in many areas took varied forms--symposia, pickets, vigils, and cultural shows. There were also forums, slide and film showings, house meetings, classroom lectures, and even poetry readings. Effectively complementing these efforts were leaflets, primers, and newsletters comprehensively discussing issues of the campaign.

Many organizers noted that an incalculable boost came from resource persons, especially visitors representing cause oriented organizations in the Philippines. Their commitment and fresh insights reactivated in long-time residents in the US their dormant feelings for the homeland and faith in its people.

Fr. Vicente Dangan

Passing Through

When Leslie Ferris of the Church Committee on Human Rights in Asia (CCHRA) and Joe McSweeney of the Columban Fathers learned of Fr. Vicente Dangan's visit to friends in Michigan, they insisted on a quick trip to Chicago.

What's special about this man?

Dangan is a Filipino priest who, together with two Columban priests -- Fr. Brian Gore and Fr. Niall O'Brian -- and six churchworkers of Bacolod diocese became internationally known as the "Negros Nine". They were wrongfully accused, detained and tried for the murder of a town mayor.

Dangan spoke before priests and other churchpeople in Chicago, relating his experience during two years of detention. He brought photos of the harsh realities of Negros and asked for tangible support for the struggle of the sugarworkers.

In Honolulu, his last stop in the US, Philippine Workers' Support Committee (PWSC) and Friends of the Filipino People (FFP) sponsored two forums at which he spoke and showed the slides, "Villages of Sorrow." Friends who heard him said he impressed his audience by just being simple and direct, by his eagerness to go back and continue his priesthood among his people.



Visiting representatives of people-based, cause-oriented organizations brought fresh insights on Philippine realities and gave incalculable boost to organizing efforts: GABRIELA general secretary Lidy Nacpil and CORD member Lean Alejandro with APC co-coordinator Enrique Delacruz.

As grassroots mobilization for education took an upswing, groups began in a systematic way to pressure Congress people to withdraw their support to Marcos and his regime. Grassroots lobbying---through calls, cables, and letters to their representatives and to House subcommittees---turned out to be diverse and uneven. Lobby spokesperson Walden Bello nonetheless expressed satisfaction over the outcome of the nationally-coordinated

Lobby Day.

Buoyed by the success of the Campaign against Aid and Repression, APC co-coordinator Enrique Delacruz said "the militant protests indicate another upsurge in the mass movement in the United States and Canada" for the Philippine struggle and predicted that "in time the fruits of this campaign will translate into formidable organizational gains."

2nd Lobby Day

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to their lobbying and that aides were generally receptive.

However, while agreeing that Marcos is a corrupt dictator, many Congressional aides also indicated that they will be hesitant about cutting aid completely because of "a possible communist takeover". Evidently, the Reagan administration's view to hold sway: that the fight is solely between Marcos and the NPA and that Marcos is still the best guarantee of US interests in the Philippines.

In the face of this "mental block," the lobbyists assessed that the task in the next few months is for groups and individuals to convey the reality that there is a pluralistic, democratic and broad opposition in the Philippines that will be able to establish a government of national unity.

Marty Rendon, aide to Rep. Tony Hall, reinforced this view when he said, "our task is to get the focus away from this picture of Marcos versus the so-called communist threat, back to Marcos and his continuing violation of human rights as the main obstacle to democratization in the Philippines."

All in all, the lobbyists estimate this year's Lobby Day to be better organized and bigger than last year. Activities last year contributed significantly to the voting on Rep. Hall's military aid cut proposal, resulting in 75 more votes than was expected.

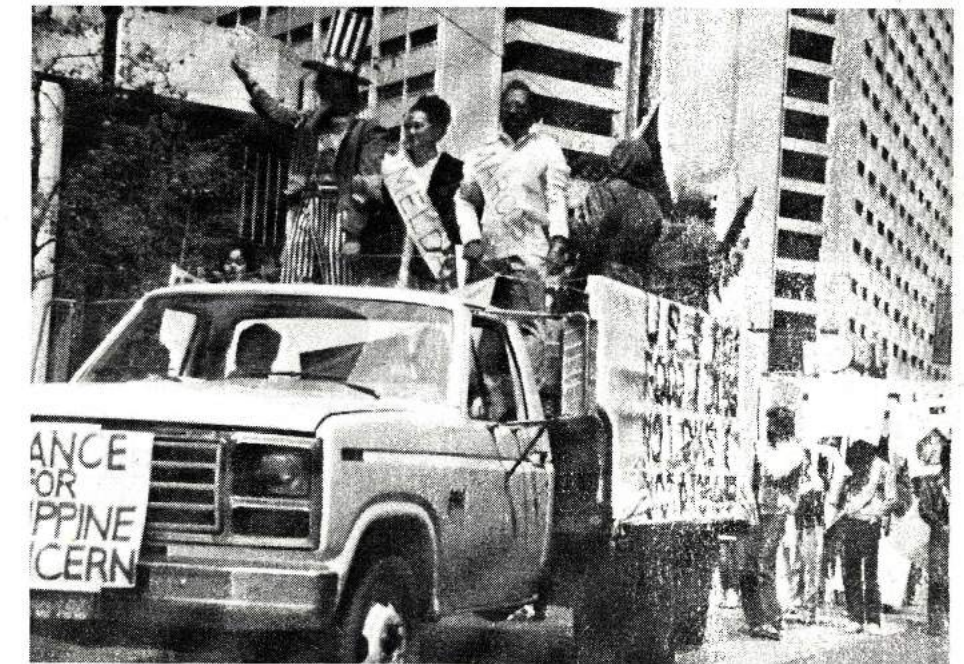
This year, no aid-cut resolutions have been introduced but two leading Democrats, Rep. Hall and Sen. John Kerry plan to offer amendments which will condition the release of aid on steps towards the respect of human rights in the Philippines.

Spring Rally Demands Non-Intervention

A colorful float depicting the current Philippine situation drew applause as it wound its way through the downtown streets of San Francisco. It was part of the 100-member Filipino contingent's contribution to the nationwide Spring Mobilization held on April 20 to focus on US foreign policies as well as to demand 'jobs justice and peace' at home.

Participating in the Philippine contingent were organizations calling for non-intervention by the US in the economic and political affairs of the Philip-

pines. Prominent among these were the Church Network on the Philippines (CNCP), Philippine Education Support Committee (PESCOM), and Filipino East Bay Network (FEBN). The FEBN and CNCP, while addressing themselves to their members' particular concerns, are also involved in the campaign against US aid and repression. Both are actively engaged in educational activities such as forums and symposia, as well as house meetings to promote the Filipino people's struggle for national sovereignty.



Targets of people's discontent: US government policy and an undemocratic regime assume familiar symbols on protest float in San Francisco April 20 at the Spring Mobilization.

We still have to lobby...

By the time BALITA gets to you, the Congress "authorization" vote, or the decision on Reagan's aid package, will have been completed. But the campaign to end repression goes on -- In the next two months, bombard your representatives

and senators with letters, phone calls and cables protesting human rights violations, and continued US intervention in support of Marcos. Demand a total economic and military aid cutoff. It can hasten the fall of a discredited regime.

Pigeons For My Son



I gave the boy
a pair of pigeons
born and bred
in my harsh prison.
They had taped wings,
and the instructions were
specifically
to keep them on for weeks
until they'd gotten used
to their new cages.
He never liked the thought of me
in prison, his own mother,
and would never stay long
to visit.

So perhaps I thought
of souvenirs.
But the tape from his pigeons
he removed one day,
and set them free.
You'd think
that would have angered me,
or made me sad at least
but I guess we're of one mind.
Why cage pigeons
who prefer free flight
in vaster, bluer skies?

by Mila Aguilar

Why No Aid to Marcos

Following are a few questions which have often come up during our lobby here in Washington and some suggested answers to them.

Please note that answers are phrased in a way that the average senator or congressperson would understand. Remember that we are dealing with people who are more likely than not to be relatively uninformed about the Philippines, and who often are guided more by political interest (*realpolitik*) than by the values we hold dear.

Rather than state our conclusions at the outset, what we attempt to do is to draw our lobby target into a process of persuasive dialogue leading to the conclusion that intervention through military aid and other means is not only morally wrong but that it won't work; so the best policy is to let the Filipino people make their own decisions.

Q. Mr. Solarz' plan is to use military aid as leverage to secure military, political, and economic reforms in the Philippines. Why do you oppose that?

A. Last year, and again this year, military aid to Marcos has been justified as a carrot held out in hopes of promised reforms. Yet, as one diplomat in Manila recently told *Newsweek*: "Marcos just keeps eating the carrots, and nobody dares hit him with the stick. I believe he's beyond reform at this point." We would prefer that all military aid to Marcos be cut or some very strong action taken at this point for the following reasons:

--Politically, Marcos has sent the world clear signals that he is not interested in reforms: he has just fired his foreign minister who dared advocate an end to his decree-making powers and severely chastised his labor minister who advocated more openness toward the opposition. Also, on March 11, he told reporters: "I announce I am a candidate in the (the presidential elections) in 1987."

--Economically, capital flight instigated by Marcos-linked people continues. Dr. Linda Richter, in testimony before the House Asia-Pacific Affairs subcommittee on March 6, said that in the last two years, more capital has left the Philippines than all U.S. aid to the Philippines since 1946. Reports in West Coast papers reveal that Marcos money is going to ventures aimed at taking over three firms in Silicon Valley. And there has been no sign of any break-up of "crony capitalism," particularly the monopoly control over the sugar and coconut industries by Marcos' cronies.

--Militarily, the reforms that Solarz hoped to bring about by retaining some military aid for Marcos last year are, as the Asia-Pacific Affairs

subcommittee report admits, absent. Marcos has insisted that he will reinstate his notorious chief of staff, Gen. Fabian Ver, if the latter is acquitted in the Aquino assassination case. And he has already re-extended the tour of duty of the heads of the Army, Navy, and Air Force and other generals in the high command who are pro-Ver people.

Yet, without substantiating evidence, assistant secretary of state for East Asia Paul Wolfowitz claimed during the Senate foreign relations committee hearings on the Philippines on March 21 that military reforms were on track!

In fact, military abuses continue unabated, that in 1984, there were 445 extra-judicial killings, as compared to 368 for 1983; people who disappeared numbered 137. Just recently government paramilitary forces brutally murdered an Italian missionary in Mindanao, in full view of townspeople. Meanwhile, critical witnesses in the Aquino assassination have been disappearing, and it is now feared that they are dead. Most recently, the bodies of a number of people picked up in peaceful demonstrations have been found floating in the Pasig, the river that runs through Manila.

In other words, even if we accept the questionable premise that military aid should be used as leverage to reform Marcos, that policy has and is clearly failing. And Congress would do well to cut further military aid to a dictator who takes U.S. support for granted whatever he does.

Summing up an interview with Marcos on March 12, *Agence France-Presse* stated: "President Marcos...emphasized that U.S. opposition to his authoritarian rule came only from a section of 'American bureaucracy,' and that the U.S. government 'bailed us out when we were in terrible trouble in 1983 and 1984... Although criticism (against him) continues in the United States, the Americans never had a united bureaucracy" but "one must take all of this in stride."

Q. Isn't the political situation in the Philippines polarizing between Marcos and the communists?

A. It is unfortunate that many in Congress have bought Reagan's picture of the Philippine political spectrum as consisting only of Marcos and the communists. In fact, there is a broad, pluralistic democratic opposition in the Philippines that prefers peaceful change. As in India, Japan, and Europe, the left is part of the opposition. It is growing, but by its own admission, it is not the dominant component of the opposition. The call for democracy is coming not only from well-publicized traditional political parties, but also from businessmen's

organizations, slumdweller's associations, groupings representing professionals, the clergy, workers, peasants, and other groups which are actively preparing for a democratic society.

Q. Who will take over after Marcos? Isn't the opposition divided, and wouldn't this invite chaos if Marcos goes?

A. The essence of democracy is competition among different political programs and their representatives for people's support. This is what happens in the United States. And this is what is happening in the Philippines now--the competition among political programs and leaders to gain broad loyalties. But the competition has been matched by unity and cooperation on various points -- for instance, on the need to cut off all U.S. aid to Marcos and on the need to do away with the dictatorship before any meaningful democratic process can unfold in the Philippines.

The opposition forces have worked with one another for several years now and, once the prospect of replacing Marcos approaches, they will be able to responsibly negotiate the necessary compromises to set up a government of national unity. The picture of an irreconcilably divided opposition is a myth which only serves the Marcos regime and justifies continued U.S. backing for it.

Q. The armed, anti-U.S. rebels are increasing in number, and this is the reason military aid should be given.

A. Yes, the armed rebels are increasing. And the best way to increase their ranks further is by giving military aid to Marcos. U.S. military aid last year was justified on the expectation that reforms would take place in the military.

However, it is clear that the Marcos military is unreformable. Even Rep. Solarz, who is prepared to give Mr. Marcos another \$25 million this year, has told the Washington Post that Mr. Marcos' statement about reinstating Gen. Fabian Ver, should the latter be acquitted, is "an indication that he (Marcos) is not serious about serious military reforms." Under these circumstances, military aid directly and symbolically reinforces Marcos' intention to use repression against all opposition, peaceful and otherwise. Faced with this prospect, more and more Filipinos will feel justified in taking up arms and coming to the conclusion that peaceful change is impossible. It is not for the U.S. to approve or disapprove.

Military intervention through shipment of military equipment to Marcos is not only morally wrong, it won't work. The only viable option is

to respect and rely on the Filipino people to make their own political decisions. Respect for the sovereign rights of other people to decide on their own is the best way to secure the foreign policy interests of the American people. Anything other than this policy in the Philippines will lead quickly to disaster for everyone involved.

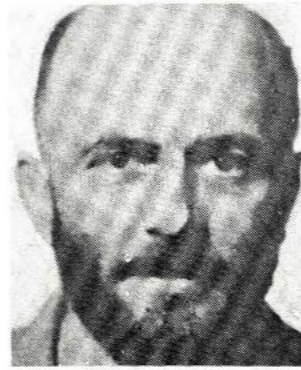
Q. The reason we give the Philippines military aid is because we don't want to lose those bases.

A. First of all, granting but not conceding that U.S. interests are served by the continued presence of those bases, it is a **non sequitur**---it is illogical---to argue that continued military aid to Marcos will save the bases. In fact, the best way to lose those bases quickly is, to continue giving aid to Marcos and completely identify the U.S. with a discredited and dying dictatorship.

But, let us view the problem more broadly. The most secure guarantee of U.S. interests in the Philippines is the friendship of the Filipino people. That friendship--the **sine qua non** of a healthy relationship between two peoples--has been frittered away by the 13 years of U.S. government support to Marcos, largely because of its obsession with the bases. Preoccupation with the bases has undermined the deeper foundation of U.S.-Philippine relations: friendship.

It is true that, because of U.S. support for Marcos, the withdrawal of the bases has become an increasingly popular position through out the opposition, and nationalism has become a major impetus to the whole opposition. And when democracy is achieved, any number of things may happen; the government may ask for the immediate withdrawal of the bases, it may seek a negotiated withdrawal, it may not press the issue given its preoccupation with rebuilding the country. Obviously, it is the Filipino people's right to determine whether or not they want to keep those bases.

But whatever happens, the most rational policy right now is to stop all military aid to Marcos and begin the process of repairing the trust and rebuilding the friendship between our two peoples. The only other alternative is sticking with Marcos and the Philippine military till the bitter end, a la Iran, and lose everything, including the strong but rapidly eroding friendship between the Filipino people and the people of the United States.



Death of Missionary Triggers Protests

The news was chilling: an Italian priest on his second year of mission in the Philippines suffered 22 bullet wounds and died in the hands of paramilitary forces in a village in Mindanao.

The message came in the form of phone calls and urgent Action Alerts from the Church Coalition for Human Rights in the Philippines (CCHR) in Washington, DC. "Sobra na!" (Enough! -- too much!) was a common reaction among human rights activists in North America. It was a cry, both of disbelief and outrage over government forces' disregard for civilian lives. To kill a priest? A foreign priest? If they can execute somebody like him so easily, how can anyone else be safe?

International Protests

Immediate responses to the killing of Fr. Tullio Favali came from all over the world. In Chicago, Joseph Cardinal Bernardin wrote a pastoral letter affirming the Church's "commitment to justice and sacredness of life." Perceiving the cry of the oppressed, the Cardinal said, "to dwell only on the violence and death suffered by Fr. Favali would be a limited vision of his ministry... it causes us to look more deeply, with the eyes of faith, at the pressing demands of the Filipino people at this particular juncture of their history."

This pastoral letter was read at memorial mass concelebrated by 20 priests from the Chicago Archdiocese, three of them Filipinos. This mass was held at St. Matthias Church on May 3.

Cardinal Bernardin noted that because of the "long and close ties that unite the people of the United States and the Philippines, the (issues) become all the more urgent. Just solutions, both in personal conscience and international policy, are all the more necessary." He added that the "hopes of the church in the Philippines are ours."

In Washington DC, some 90 people participated in a protest vigil on May 2 sponsored by the CCHR and the Philippine Human Rights Lobby (PHRL) to commemorate the sacrifice of Fr. Favali and other Filipino martyrs. Fr. Leo McCarthy, MM, officiated at the service while Ms. Ruth Harris, CCHR chairperson, delivered a homily on the need for international support. A dinner and cultural presentation followed the Favali memorial. Some 50 people, including delegations from New York, Ohio and Philadelphia, who earlier participated in the National Lobby Day, took turns singing solidarity and nationalist songs.

In Los Angeles, local groups led by the Ecumenical Fellowship for Justice and Peace in the Philippines (EFJPP) distributed Action Alerts and data sheets on the Favali murder.

The Favali killing and the overall human rights situation in the Philippines became a workshop topic during a Law Day observance of the Los Angeles Unified School District and the Constitutional Rights Foundation (CRF) last May 5. Some 150 top students of junior high schools of LA county viewed a slide presentation on

the Philippines presented by members of Task Force Detainees-KAPATID of LA and the local chapter of Amnesty International.

Also in Los Angeles, at a picket-demonstration in front of the Philippine consulate May 3, a Canadian priest spoke of the growing repression in the Philippines and exhorted friends and passersby of this busy section to protest rampant injustices.

A Filipina from West Covina was one such passerby: she saw the demonstration, asked about the issues then got a placard and marched with the crowd. She said she came from Davao City where military abuses are well-known and where people do not hesitate to voice their protests.

Mail Campaign

Meanwhile, Dr. Dante Simbulan, CCHR executive director, stressed the importance of bringing public attention and pressure on the Philippine government. He appealed for a massive telegram campaign to strongly protest the murder of Fr. Tullio and demand the prosecution of his killers.

He said concerned groups can also launch a telegram campaign directed at US government officials to express indignation over human rights violations in the Philippines and continued US support of the Marcos regime. "The guns that killed Fr. Tullio Favali and thousands of Filipino victims of military atrocities are US-supplied weapons," the CCHR director said.

Philippine Groups Advance Solidarity Work

A major international solidarity conference is set to take place in the war-ravaged land of Mindanao, southern Philippines, on September 7-21, 1985. Organized by the International Forum for Solidarity (INFOS-MINDANAO), the conference expects 160 delegates from all over the world and will highlight a 5-day exposure trip to the urban and rural communities currently undergoing social and political change.

The dates of the conference coincide with the anniversary of the declaration of martial law,

as it did last year, when the first international solidarity campaign for the Filipino people's struggle was launched in the main urban center of Manila and ended with a stake-out at the foot of the bridge leading to Malacanang Palace.

Meanwhile, the biggest labor center in the Philippines, the Kilusang Mayo Uno (KMU) recently wound up its international labor conference. Trade unionists and labor supporters from and pledged to promote the cause of Filipino workers wherever they are. In particular, they pledged to support a

nationwide labor campaign to be launched in North America in the fall.

Not the least of groups campaigning for international support are women's groups, which made dramatic advances in the past year and a half. Led by GABRIELA, 53 women's organizations from all over the Philippines celebrated International Women's Day with a long march that ended, once more, at the historic bridge of Mendiola. The bridge was secured several hundred meters long by men and women riot squads and hundreds of armed troops but no major incident occurred. The march capped a week-long international women's congress.

The various solidarity projects being launched in quick succession by multi-issue, people-based organizations in the Philippines underscore the need to build stronger ties between the Filipino people and their international friends. Many of these organizations say that the troubles of a deeply embattled government, together with the rapid growth of popular resistance, will make international solidarity building more urgent in years to come.

A Boost for RP Labor Movement

Filipino unionists, representatives of the labor center Kilusang Mayo Uno (KMU) will tour North America in the fall under the sponsorship of the Philippine Workers' Support Committee (PWSC) and other fraternal organizations.

The tour is one of several major projects on the agenda of PWSC, a swiftly-expanding support organization, to generate strong backing for Filipino workers battling repression.

As an organization of trade unionists and other groups concerned with labor, the PWSC began quietly in 1984, after a trip to the Philippines by its coordinator, John Witeck, and following a consultation with

Filipino labor organizers.

It subsequently grew to include chapters in New York, Hawaii, and Washington DC, and by spring of 1985, it had convened a national committee meeting to determine expansion of work to other areas in North America.

Believing that American workers have a stake in the welfare of workers in the Philippines, especially those working in transnational corporations, the PWSC seeks to create greater awareness among American workers of a militant labor movement in the Philippines. Through lobbying in Congress, campaign for the release of detained unionists, demonstrations, forums, dinner-fundraisers, and other educational

activities, the PWSC is reaching out to more and more groups and individuals committed to justice for workers.

Last December, 1984, the PWSC put out a statement and gathered signatories to appeal to the Philippine government to stop trade union repression. And very recently, it organized a delegation of trade unionists to participate in events around Labor Solidarity Week in the Philippines.

The formation and growth of PWSC as a strong support organization is an advance in the unity of Filipinos and Americans seeking meaningful change. As this unity deepens, workers in both countries will contribute tremendously to end a once-powerful, anti-worker regime.