

OPPOSE MARCOS VISIT

Protest Reagan Support of Dictatorships!



As the U.S. flexes its military muscle--reinstating draft registration, preparing for military intervention at various "trouble spots," and spending billions of U.S. tax dollars on military expenditures--the American people must oppose U.S. support of repression in the Philippines and throughout the world.

The U.S. government is the backbone of the repressive Marcos dictatorship. The Philippines is key to the U.S. global military strategy, with Clark Air Base and Subic Naval Base located there. These two largest U.S. bases overseas are key staging areas for U.S. intervention in Asia and the rest of the world.

ATTEND THE PICKET!!!

FORUM

Slide show, speeches, discussion on the current situation in the Philippines, implications of Reagan's domestic and foreign policy, and the forthcoming Marcos visit to the U.S. in October.

Philippine Consulate
447 Sutter St., S.F.

St. Anthony's Church
Army cor. Shotwell, SF

Tues. Sept. 22
12 Noon

Sat. Sept. 26
2:30-5 PM

For more information contact: Hilary Crosby, 621-2493 (days)
Wilma Cadorna, 239-4721 (evenings)

Sponsored by the PHILIPPINE SOLIDARITY NETWORK (PSN) and the COALITION AGAINST THE MARCOS DICTATORSHIP (CAMD), SAN FRANCISCO-BAY AREA Chapters

Oppose the Marcos Visit Stop U.S. Aid to the Marcos Dictatorship

Moorhead Kennedy, former official of the U.S. State Department, was a hostage in Iran. In a recent speech at the Commonwealth Club in San Francisco, Kennedy asked if we had learned the lesson of Iran "when I hear Vice-President Bush toasting Marcos word-for-word as U.S. officials once toasted the Shah."

Moorhead Kennedy is not alone in condemning Mr. Bush's gushy statements in Manila. A more famous Kennedy, the senator from Massachusetts; other members of Congress; and media as diverse as the *New York Times*, the *Miami Herald*, the *Chicago Sun Times* and the *San Francisco Examiner* all condemned Mr. Bush's extravagant praise of the Marcos regime.

As if it is not enough that he sent his Vice-President and his Secretary of State to sing Marcos' praises in Manila, Reagan would have Marcos come to Washington so he can praise him personally. Unconfirmed, but persistent reports say that Marcos is coming for a state visit either before or after the North-South summit meeting in Mexico in late October.

For Marcos, a state visit would tie a bright new ribbon to the political package that Bush delivered in Manila. It would send those of his elite opponents who had hoped for U.S. support into despondency and possibly into Marcos' arms. By providing an image of political stability, it could improve the regime's credit rating and reassure nervous investors.

For the Filipino people, unequivocal U.S. support for the Marcos dictatorship has meant a renewed license for repression, for the intensified implementation of economic policies which have only brought inflation, lower income and unmitigated misery.

For the Reagan administration, pulling off a Marcos visit would mean the affirmation of its policy of all-out support for dictators in U.S. client-states. By defusing the human rights issue, a Marcos visit would facilitate an increase in U.S. military assistance to the Marcos regime's intensifying

counter-insurgency campaign. It would help to justify the abandonment of principles in U.S. foreign relations in the name of a jingoist and militaristic anti-Soviet campaign.

OPPOSE REAGAN GUNS, NOT JUST REAGAN WORDS

The Reagan administration's open and unblushing support for the Marcos dictatorship marks a significant change in U.S.-Philippine relations. Past administrations provided increasing amounts of military and economic assistance, but at least had the saving grace of being embarrassed by Marcos' antics. The Reagan administration is the first one brazen enough to fully embrace the Marcos dictatorship, warts and all.

It is for this reason that we unite with those in the media and in Congress who condemned the Bush statement, those who oppose a Marcos visit. But we have to oppose more than the rhetoric of U.S.-Philippine relations under Reagan. Marcos needs Reagan's political support but he would get nowhere without concrete economic and military assistance.

In 1980, one year before Reagan came into office, U.S. economic and military assistance to the Marcos dictatorship totaled \$158.8 million. An additional \$928.5 million in loans at giveaway rates was provided. This was twice the \$441.1 million provided in 1979.

Open political support for the Marcos dictatorship, whatever form it takes, must be opposed. Not for its own sake but because such support sets the basis for even more assistance. In the long run, what is important is not Reagan's words but the guns that follow them.

U.S. political and material assistance to the Marcos dictatorship can be stopped only with the active support of the American people. Every dollar given to Marcos is gouged out of our pockets in taxes or taken out of the social services that we vitally need. Praise for Marcos violates our democratic principles and endangers our nation's interest in friendship with the Filipino people. □