



Philippines Australia Solidarity Group

NEWSLETTER

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PASG Q'LD SPONSORS IMPORTANT VISITORS

FROM THE PHILIPPINES IN AUGUST

Professor Roland Simbulan, a staunch Filipino nationalist, discussed the "U.S. Bases and Low Intensity Conflict in the Philippines" in a large public meeting on the 12th of August organised by PASG with the cooperation of the University of Queensland Department of Anthropology and Queensland Development Education Committee (QDEC). His talk enlightened academics and the public on the place of the bases in Philippine sovereignty. In particular, he clarified the role of the upcoming Peace Brigade in the context of the current talks on the bases.

Simbulan has long been involved in the movement for the dismantling of American bases in the Philippines. Author of the book "The Bases of our Insecurity", he is also Professor of Political Science at the University of the Philippines and is an expert on the issue of American military intervention in the Philippines. With the current renegotiation talks on the bases, he is presently busy with Senator Tanada in drafting the position paper against the continued presence of the bases. In addition to this work his expertise has led him to various international forums; the most recent of which was the Low Intensity Conflict Conference held in Australia.

PASG's second distinguished visitor was Raul Segovia who was also jointly sponsored by QDEC. He spoke at another public meeting on the 18th of August concerning "Education, Equality and Justice in the Philippines".

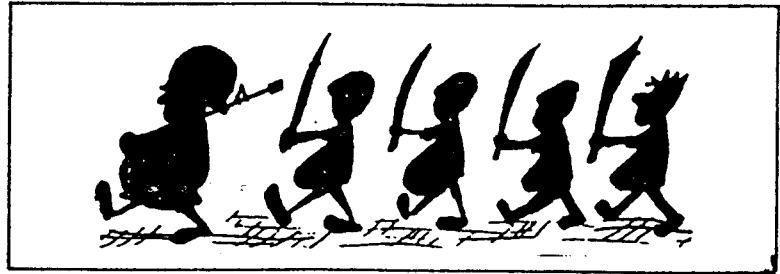
The Philippine educational system is one of the most extensive and wide-reaching in the world. Ironically, however, education has been a low priority in both the Marcos and Aquino regimes. As the political and economic situation worsened, teaching conditions in the Philippines also deteriorated.

Teachers occupy a central role in Philippine society but the reality of Filipino teachers today is solely that of an overworked and underpaid professional. Although Marcos prohibited them from participating in unions, educators like Raul Segovia spearheaded organising of teachers to demand improvement in working conditions and quality of education. The Alliance for Concerned Teachers (ACT) in the Philippines, Raul Segovia is currently the President, is the result of a decade-long struggle. Raul Segovia has taken Philippine educational issues internationally and was on an Australia-wide speaking tour.

In a press conference with ABC radio and the Courier Mail organised by Peter O'Brien, General Secretary of the Queensland Association of Teachers of Independent Schools, Segovia was able to clarify that "Wages in general for teachers are about US\$100 a month and the official poverty line wage is US\$200 a month" and moreover that "Despite some of the reforms of the Aquino regime, teachers are still being imprisoned and harassed by Government authorities".

On a related issue, Francis de la Cruz, national vice-chairperson of the League of Filipino Students (LFS), discussed with students and various youth groups in Brisbane the problems faced by students in the Philippines with the escalation of militarisation under the Aquino regime. De la Cruz was in Brisbane for a week as part of being an official exchangee with La Trobe and Flinders Universities. LFS is helping to host the Peace Brigade, especially for students, and in meeting with students in Australia de la Cruz explained how his organisation will facilitate student exposure during the event.

* * *



I LOVE MY COUNTRY
The Pillar of Democracy in the Far East



RED PRIORITY

SA AKING BANSA AKO'Y DAKILA

I am a true Malayan Filipino, a member of the Far East Democratic Restoration Bureau of the Alliance For Democracy and Morality In The Country (ADAMIC) and I am proud of it!

Note:

The bearer is a law-abiding citizen and to the best of our knowledge has no criminal record.

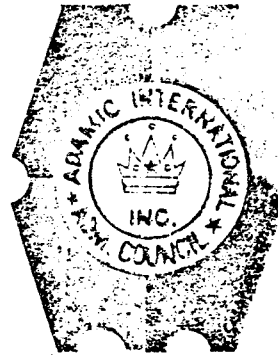
*An appeal From Commander Lahi
Proponent and Founder of The
ADAMIC and Chairman of the
Anti-Communist Party of the Philippines*

SERIAL NO. _____

ANTI-COMMUNIST
DEMOCRATIC BROTHERHOOD

PASSPORT

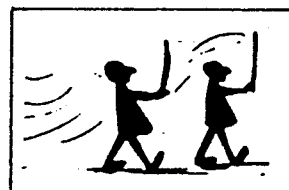
FOR ACTIVE MEMBER



International
CIRCULATION CENTER
P.O. Box 242, Davao City

PASSPORT TO "CLUB DEAD"

In our last issue we drew the readers' attention to the Sydney Morning Herald byline "'Club Red' Holidays for Trendy Radicals" which is the right wing euphemism for youthful idealists "exposure" visits to strongholds of the New People's Army. Vigilantes in Davao are themselves setting a "trendy gimmick" of validating their death squads with passports as shown above.



(completion of the statement of the indigenous delegation from the Philippines to Session 5 of the United Nations Working Group on Indigenous Populations)

Our Commitments and Appeal

On the other hand, we will work hard to have the Philippine government ratify ILO-Convention 107. We will mobilize our organizations and allies to actively participate in the revision of this Convention. We will gladly disseminate the wise decisions and insights of the Working Group, the various UN agencies and the Independent Commission on International Humanitarian Issues. Based on our capacities, we will share whatever human and material resources we have with our brothers and sisters in the struggle.

In the spirit of solidarity, we wish to take the opportunity to invite the members of the Working Group and those present in this meeting to be with us during the launching congress of the National Coalition of Philippine Indigenous People's Organizations and Communities, December 6-9, 1987, Philippines. A month earlier, our anti-nuclear weapons and foreign bases free-Philippine movement will host the meeting of the Nuclear Free and Independent Pacific (NFIP).

We have one special appeal for the Working Group. Please consider for our sake and the future generations, the first recommendation for immediate action of the Independent Commission on International Humanitarian Issues, which says:

"Recourse procedures must be established within the United Nations to examine threats to the well-being and survival of the indigenous peoples. An international ombudsman, under the UN aegis could help monitor such situations and report to the General Assembly and the Secretary-General all crisis situations affecting indigenous peoples such as armed conflicts, forced relocations, ethnocide and genocide".

For what is the use of having good international standards from now, if we no longer exist? What is the reason for "harvesting the grass when the horse is already dead"?

Finally, Madame chairperson and members of the Working Group, allow us to express our confidence in you, our faith in the future and in our victory in our own way-

(a chanted message follows)

AUSTRALIAN PRESS STEPS UP ATTACKS ON PASG AND GENUINE DEMOCRACY IN THE PHILIPPINES

Under the byline "Manila Marxists Woo Australia", Michael Barnard recently furnished a right-wing biased Comment column to The Age on Tuesday the 2nd of August. Australian-wide PASG groups and the Melbourne-based Philippines Resource Centre (PRC) were labeled as having a "markedly left profile".

PRC, not only through PASG, but the other NGO board members as well (Australian Asia Worker Links, Australian Council of Churches, Community Aid Abroad, Uniting Church, Australian Freedom From Hunger Campaign, Action for World Development and the Australian Teachers Federation) were accused of conducting a partisan propaganda campaign in favour of the Philippine far left. Barnard finds it unthinkable that Australian NGO's should support the left overseas.

Among the "overseas insurgencies" unacceptable to Barnard are the National Democratic Front in the Philippines (NDF), PLO, FLNKS, ANC, Fretlin, Eritrea, SWAPO, OPM, Chilean Resistance and the FMLN-FDR, many of which have official observer status in the United Nations and official representatives operating in Australia. All share the common struggle for self-determination and identity as distinct peoples denied by oppressive, undemocratic regimes. Fortunately there is enough democratic space for NGO's like PASG to operate freely in Australia, despite the far right paranoia coming from those like Barnard.

SUBSCRIPTIONS ARE NOW DUE!

The Philippines Australia Solidarity Group-Qld (PASG) is part of a national organisation which has offices in all state capitals and in Canberra. It brings together people of diverse backgrounds and includes both Australians and Filipinos living in Australia. As well, it has close links with Filipino Community Organisations in Australia and the Philippines. Among its members there are people with extensive Philippine experience with information on trade unions, women's organisations, industrial working conditions, peasant organisations, rural working conditions, teachers working conditions and schools, the role of the churches (Christian and Non-Christian) and the conditions of indigenous peoples in the Philippines. The PASG Brisbane provides resource material such as slides and videos as well as speakers.

The objectives of the PASG are to generate support in Australia for all Filipino organisations working for genuine democracy, freedom and sovereignty, to end Australian Military aid to the Philippines and to oppose all forms of foreign intervention in the affairs of the Filipino people.

PASG holds regular meetings the third thursday of each month in the Albion Peace Centre, 102 Macdonald Road, Windsor. For further information contact David Hyndman, Ph.377 4029 or Terry Fisher, Ph.844 9641.

Attention: PASG Coordinator
P.O. Box 174
St. Lucia, Qld 4067

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 to receive other Philippine information materials
 to make a donation of \$_____ for the solidarity work

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