



# Philippines Australia Solidarity Group Newsletter

(Queensland Edition)

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\$1.00

## IF YOU WANT PEACE, WORK FOR JUSTICE



As the mists of fear of a nuclear winter fades, the architecture of the New World Order casts a familiar shadow over the future of the planet.

On Palm Sunday 12th April 1992, as we Rally for Peace and Nuclear Disarmament, the seemingly endless siphoning of billions of dollars every year in 3rd World blood continues to feed the insatiable appetites of the developed countries.

The economic policemen of the IMF/WB cruelly subject the majority of the world's peoples to poverty, malnutrition, starvation, disease, super-exploitation and a fearful retribution in salvaging, torture and rape for any resistance.

Australia does 'business as usual' with the fascist Indonesian military and profitably colludes with the oppression of the East Timorese, West Papuan, South Mollucan and Achea Sumatran peoples. Even as the Jakarta murderers massacred Timorese in Dili last year, Australia was training 22 Indonesian officers in "Low Level Tactics" at the Land Warfare Centre, Cunungra, Qld. The 'clever country' will not let human rights abuses get in the way of a fast dollar - Aborigines know that to be true.

Australia has business interests in the Philippines too. Is it a surprise that we train officers of the Armed Forces of the Philippines as well? Is it a coincidence that the level of human rights abuses in the Philippines is at its highest ever? Over one million internal refugees in flight from the nationwide counter-insurgency operations of the military! As the Isneg villagers of the Marag Valley are bombed in their homes and fields, Australia's hands are bloodied by outrage.

*What devilish conspiracy it is, that would place a nuclear dome on the slope of a volcano, beside an earthquake fault, On a coast prey to tidal waves and typhoons, among people ravaged by malaria and stunned by malnutrition.*

**BATAAN NUCLEAR POWER PLANT - PAGE 4**

People the whole world over want justice and peace. Isn't that the truth? A Justice & Peace Group in every home and community, classroom, college and university, every place of work and worship; each uniting with a non-government, community-based Justice & Peace Group in the 3rd World!

Love and solidarity come alive when we give material support, without conditions, to the organisations of the poor struggling for national liberation, self-determination and social justice. Lift the spirits of an oppressed brother or sister! Contact PASG if you'd like to write to a political prisoner in the Philippines. Tell them you're raising money for the KAPATID Political Prisoners Bail Fund. Isn't that just one good idea to act upon this Palm Sunday?

The Association for the Release and Amnesty of Political Detainees (KAPATID) invites contributions to the Political Prisoners Bail Fund. US\$ cheques should be made out to KAPATID Chairperson Ms. Paula C. Malay and mailed to: KAPATID, 44 Bانشaw Street, Cubao, Quezon City, Philippines.

## Brisbane Palm Sunday

**RALLY  
FOR  
PEACE  
'92**



**ALBERT PARK - 11am - APRIL 12**

**12.30 March to Musgrave Park  
Festival and Concert**

**A JUST and PEACEFUL WORLD**

## T'WAS A YEAR OF LIVING DANGEROUSLY

**BAGUIO CITY (NORDIS)** — Lahar flowed, typhoons raged, stomachs grumbled, bombs blasted, and suddenly all was quiet on many fronts. That was because deaths, disasters and destruction — both natural and man-made — silenced many areas of the archipelago.

The past year left a deep imprint on all aspects of life. Deaths registered the most unforgettable and most painful images. None was worse than Mother Nature's wrath.

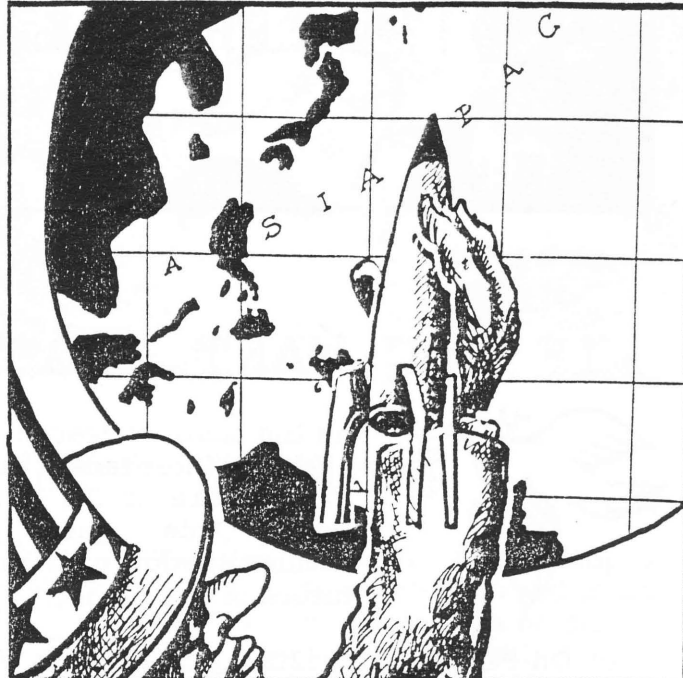
The eruption of Mt Pinatubo unleashed the deadly lahar and took the lives of hundreds in Central Luzon. Super typhoon "Trining" caused landslides and buried residents in Northern Luzon. Typhoon "Uring" washed away more than 8,000 lives in Leyte.

It was nature acting up. But man-made casualties contributed much to the high casualty rate. In Pampanga and Zambales, more deaths were recorded in the cramped and unsanitary refugee centers than that caused directly by mudslides and lahar. Volunteer doctors decried the lack of government assistance; food, clothing and medicine were undelivered. Lahar visited the devastated areas more often than government services. A refugee center in Olongapo reported one child dies every day in the camp. The statistic is the same in other refugee centers.

In Ormoc, residents and government officials blamed the massive illegal logging in the area as responsible for the thousands of deaths during the relatively mild Typhoon "Uring". Senator Orlando Mercado, a proponent of the total logging ban pending in Congress, said the bald mountain landscapes resulted in the overflowing of rain water to the low-lying communities. Caught unaware, residents were washed away, leaving a tragedy of monstrous proportions.

The twin disasters exposed the government's inability to respond to emergencies.

But in Marag Valley in Kalinga-Apayao, government's response to the insurgency problem was swift and devastating. Several military operations were launched in the area presumably to flush out the communist guerillas. The result has been a man-made disaster.



The founding statement of the Asia-Pacific Peoples' Forum in January 1989, the Manila Declaration, concluded:

"Outgoing US President Ronald Reagan has prophesied that the 21st century will be the Asia-Pacific century. His vision is one where transnational corporations exploit Asia-Pacific peoples and natural resources.

"Let us collectively, reshape that vision. Let us, together, work towards replacing militaristic and repressive regimes with genuine peoples' democracies. And let us, together, work for a region of peace, social justice and sustainable development."

Varied fact-finding missions to the area conducted during the first semester of 1991 place the casualties between 50-100, most of them children who died because of hunger and diseases. The military imposed a food blockade, charging that food and medical assistance only fall into NPA hands.

Poverty also claimed its own victims. While death due to hunger is slow compared to being washed in a hail of lahar or peppered with bullets, the scope of its venom encompasses the whole country. The National Economic Development Authority reported an 18 percent inflation rate and a zero growth rate in 1991. Economic analysts predict a higher percentage of Filipinos falling below the poverty line, compared to the government's standard 60 percent projection.

1991 was a triple whammy for Filipinos. With a power crisis awaiting, the future looks dim, literally and figuratively.

Ronald San Juan / Northern Dispatch / January 17, 1992

# PROFILE: ASIA-PACIFIC PEOPLES' FORUM ON PEACE AND DEVELOPMENT

A peoples' initiative to forge a nuclear-free, genuinely democratic, sovereign and ecologically sustainable Asia-Pacific in the 21st Century.

Secretariat: PO Box SC 484, Manila, Philippines  
Sydney secretariat: PO Box A671, Sydney South 2000

The decision to launch the APPFPD was made by 200 participants coming from 13 countries attending the Asia-Pacific Peoples' Conference on Peace and Development held in the Philippines January 12-15, 1989. The conference concluded with a massive peace cavalcade to the US airbase at Clark Field, in defiance of the Philippines and US military. This action was a spark for the recent wave of anti-base sentiment in the Philippines, culminating in the historic decision on September 16, 1991, by the Philippines Senate, to reject any new bases treaty with the USA.

The 90-strong Australian delegation to the January 1989 Peace Brigade was jointly organised by the Philippines Australia Solidarity Group and the Australian Anti-Bases Campaign Coalition Regional Links Group.

## APPFPD Statement of Principles

The Asia-Pacific Peoples' Forum for Peace and Development is a coalition of organisations/individuals committed to campaigning actively and unitedly in all countries of the Asia-Pacific region in support of the following principles:

1. The total dismantling of all nuclear arms and foreign military bases in our region;
2. An end to foreign military assistance to repressive regimes;
3. The total removal of all aspects of the nuclear fuel cycle from the region;
4. Full support for the inherent rights of indigenous peoples to their ancestral domains, and to their self-determination and preservation of their cultural heritage;
5. United opposition to all forms of foreign and local exploitation of all oppressed sectors, classes and peoples;
6. Full control over development aid by the community receiving that aid;
7. An end to foreign military presence in our region, whether on land, sea or air, and an end to foreign military exercises;
8. Opposition to the production of, and trade in armaments within the region;
9. United action for genuine democracy, social progress, and ecologically balanced economic development;
10. Elimination of all discrimination based on race, gender, class and religion;
11. Full implementation of all international conventions on

human rights, disarmament, peace, and development, through the region;

12. Ending the use of foreign debt as the major vehicle of economic intervention and domination in the region, and repudiating "Third World" debt. Demanding a new, just and equitable economic order;
13. Propagation of the ideas of peace and development by educational and cultural means.

## Indigenous Peoples' Charter

1. The return of ancestral domains;
2. The protection and preservation of cultural identity;
3. The respect and upholding of the right to self-determination and economic independence;
4. Recognition of the indigenous peoples as custodians of their lands, including rivers, mountains, forests and oceans;
5. Retention of their traditional lifestyle as a right;
6. The condemnation of all forms of human rights violations.

## APPFPD Executive Committee

Ben Bartlett (Australia), Jihoon Lee (South Korea), Bishop Antonio Nepomuceno, (Philippines), Rasul Bux Palijo (Pakistan), Fr Art Balagat (Philippines) - Coordinator, Rita Baua (Philippines) - Deputy Coordinator.

**The APPFPD is the embodiment of the collective vision, shared by peoples' organisations and movements and progressive individuals in the region for lasting and genuine peace.**

### TO BE INVOLVED

RETURN THIS FORM NOW TO:  
APPFPD, PO Box A671, Sydney South 2000  
or phone: Peter Murphy 02-698 8513

NAME:.....  
ORGANISATION:.....  
ADDRESS:.....  
PHONE:.....

- ☐ I enclose \$5 to be put on the APPFPD mailing list.
- ☐ I wish to be involved in discussions in my city about developing the involvement of Australian organisations and individuals in APPFPD.
- ☐ Please send me a copy of the Manila Declaration.
- ☐ I enclose Aus\$34 subscription to the APPFPD publications, Peacewatch Asia-Pacific and Asia-Pacific Forum.



## NUCLEAR PLANT DEAL SPARKS NEW CONTROVERSY



MANILA, MAR 5 (IPS/RAMON ISBERTO) -- The Philippines has conditionally agreed to drop its bribery lawsuit against Westinghouse Electric Corp., a U.S. firm that built a controversial \$2.4 billion nuclear power plant under the Marcos government.

The compromise agreement, concluded on instructions from President Aquino, was denounced by anti-nuclear activists who called it, "treason of the highest order".

Under the deal (which is still subject to approval by the Philippine Congress), Westinghouse could take about 3 years to repair and upgrade the 620-megawatt power plant located in the province of Bataan, some 175 kms north-west of Manila, for a "discounted" price. Its work would be reviewed by "an independent panel of internationally recognised experts". Westinghouse would then run the facility under a 30-year contract for \$40 million a year.

The agreement provides for Westinghouse to pay the Philippines \$100 million "in cash and cash equivalents," said Senator Rene Saguisag, chairman of the government's Philippine Nuclear Power Plant special committee (PNPP). This reduces Manila's cost of bringing the plant up to "current U.S. nuclear safety standards" from about \$400 to \$300 million. To meet the balance, the Philippines would receive a \$300 million loan from the U.S. Export-Import Bank which financed the PNPP since its start in the 70's.

The loan would be repaid out of revenue generated by PNPP once operational.

Saguisag stressed that the current agreement "will suspend and archive, not end" the lawsuit that Manila filed against Westinghouse in 1988 and the non-fulfilment of contract complaint being arbitrated by the Geneva International Chamber of Commerce. If Congress does not approve the settlement, the case will be sent back to court, he said.

Officials of the Nuclear-Free Philippines Coalition (NFPC) oppose the plan to reopen the facility which they had attacked for being unsafe and grossly over-priced before it was mothballed by Aquino in 1986.

Critics expressed shock that the government would even consider reopening the plant after the 1991 eruption of Mt Pinatubo volcano, just 50 kms north, and the 1990 earthquake which killed several thousands in the island of Luzon where the nuclear facility is located.

"We thought the possibility of the plant operating had been permanently buried under the ashes of Mt Pinatubo," said Roland Simbulan who chairs the NFPC.

Simbulan said the Coalition opposed the plant from the outset because its location is unsafe. "The recent disasters have shown that these concerns are not imaginary fears." The plant sits on the slope of a volcano, Mt. Natib, classified as "semi-active". It is also near an earthquake fault.

These considerations were apparently outweighed by Aquino's desire to put the issue to rest as it upsets Manila's ties not only with Westinghouse but also with its major foreign bank creditors, many of which helped finance the project.

Manila faces major power shortage. As if to emphasise that point, metropolitan Manila and nearby provinces were plunged into a blackout on the day Saguisag announced the government's compromise deal.

The proposed settlement is yet another embarrassing turnaround for Aquino who, during the anti-Marcos campaign years, joined street activists in denouncing the nuclear plant project as the most scandalous deal ever concluded.



## Scientists Say Taal Volcano Could Erupt Again

TAAL, a 1026-foot island volcano 35 miles south of Manila, experienced 385 rock fracturing quakes within an 18-hour period ending on the morning of Saturday, Feb 15.

The volcano's northern face is bulging, indicating molten rock is moving close to the surface, says Leyo Bautista of the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (PHILVOCS).

Taal has been among the most violent of the more than 20 active volcanoes in the country. In 1901, a Taal eruption killed 2000 people and wiped out dozens of villages. A similar episode of increased seismicity occurred during March-April 1991, with as many as 64 earthquakes recorded in one day.

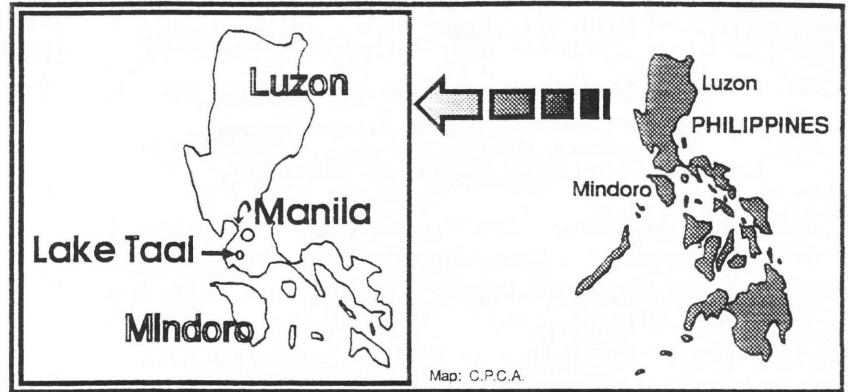
Six of Taal's 24 known eruptions since 1572 have caused fatalities. Its major 1965 eruption killed at least 150 people and was followed by frequent explosive activity until 1970. Minor phreatic activity resumed in '76 and again in '77. There were no casualties reported during the last eruption in 1977.

The following, from the Smithsonian Institute's Global Volcanism Network, is a preliminary report on recent events at Taal:

A sudden increase in local seismicity began early 14 Feb., peaking at 385 high-frequency earthquakes recorded between 1200 Feb 14 & 0600 Feb 15. The quakes were felt in the six towns near the shores of Lake Taal, which fills the 15x22 km caldera. The active cone forms an island near the centre of the lake.

According to press reports, volcanologists observed the water temperature increase by several degrees, and a bulge and several fissures (up to 400 meters long) form on the volcano's north flank. All aircraft were advised to exercise caution and avoid flying over the area.

PHILVOCS elevated the volcano's status to Alert Level 3 on the 15th and residents began to evacuate. By the following day, half the island's 6000 residents had reportedly moved into evacuation centers. Seismicity quickly decreased to only 14 quakes recorded during a 13-hour period on Feb 16.



PHILVOCS chief volcanologist, Raymundo Punongbayan, said these signs indicate that the Taal volcano "might really be gearing up for a major eruption." He said an eruption of Taal will not be nearly as devastating as the explosion of Mt Pinatubo. Taal's magma deposits may reach a maximum of 6 million cubic meters as compared with the 10 billion cubic meters of deposits during Mt Pinatubo's peak activity.

## INTERNATIONAL OBSERVER MISSION TO THE 1992 PHILIPPINE ELECTIONS

ON MAY 11, 1992, the Philippines will hold its first presidential election in the post-Marcos period. At stake too in the elections are national and local positions, which could affect a virtual overhaul in the nation's leadership.

In anticipation of the volatile situation surrounding the exercise, a group of Philippine NGOs and church formations is convening an International Election Observer Mission to monitor the elections around May 7 to 14, 1992, help ensure the integrity of the electoral process, and uphold the electorate's right of suffrage.

The Mission is organized and hosted by several large sectoral and multi-sectoral people's formations and NGOs. Their national leaders compose the organizing committee of the Mission. They are: Council for People's Development, Ecumenical Bishops' Forum, People's Caucus, Philippine Independent Church, Philippine International Forum, Women's International League for Peace and Freedom - Philippines.

**There is still time to join the Mission.**  
Call Peter Murphy, PASG Sydney on (02) 698 8513 or fax your response direct to the Philippines (632) 721-78-14.

# ERUPTION and EXODUS

## MT. PINATUBO and the AYTAS of ZAMBALES

Published by: LAKAS (Lubos na Alyansa ng mga  
Katutubong Ayta ng Sambales)  
NEGRITO PEOPLES ALLIANCE OF ZAMBALES

Early morning 12th June 1990: "Pumutok na ang bolkan!" (The volcano has erupted!) an Ayta on the mountain top called out.

During March to May of this year, LAKAS chairperson, Palawig Cabalic, Secretary, Ben Jugatan and FMM Sister Carmen 'Menggay' Balazo will tour Australia to share with us their lives since the eruption and to thank the people of Australia for their support.

The Aytas have published a book "Eruption and Evacuation" filled with colour photos of the people and their beautiful mountain as it was before the eruption and after; available from Qld PASG at \$20.

Dedicated "To all our fellow indigenous peoples, in solidarity with their continuing struggle for ancestral land rights and self-determination," this account of the Aytas will bring you closer to understanding the meaning of the land to indigenous peoples.

To the many friends of the Aytas who were not able to meet with them on this trip, we send their greetings and thanks. Please contact us if you would like to catch up with the tour in another state. With the following account we hope to share the Brisbane visit.



RING-RING. "Hello. WHAT! Sr Menggay is accompanying two Ayta people on a speaking tour of Australia. Wonderful! WHEN? Oh, in only ten days time. And their first stop is WHERE? BRISBANE!" And so, the tour began.

RING-RING the Network: "Hello. Have you heard...? Can you...? Would you...? You will, that's great!"



GET UP EARLY AIRPORT LOUNGE: "Look, look familiar faces. Where, where? Over there. Hello. Welcome. Luggage? Bows and arrows - Customs. CONFISCATED! Sent on to Sydney. Where's the Embassy's letter?"

TIME FOR REST. Eat. Rice, banana, chook. Fish? Let's go to the beach. Low tide. Palawig's calling the birds. This is a tall tree. This one is old.

SUNDAY WITH KABALIKAT. Hello brothers, sisters, hello my people. So many Filipinos gather in this little house! Welcome from the Aboriginal Provisional Government. The Ayta are honoured, we are all honoured. Go in peace. Let us eat and share.

ERUPTION and EVACUATION. The photos. The slides. Even a book. Two videos? The sound on one is no good... never mind. Ben shows the dance of the quail. Palawig is the hunter. The children's lament for their homeland pierces our conversations. Let us give thanks to Apo Namalyari.

To speak with the Ayta is to speak of pride, of resistance to the invader/coloniser/land-grabber, OF SURVIVAL, of organisation, LAKAS and empowerment.

MONDAY WE ARE INVITED BY THE LATINOS. Kumusta ka? Como está? Our struggles are the same. We share the Pacific. We want peace. There is no peace without justice.



TUESDAY AT YURRI GURRI with the Elders is like it is at home. We pay our respects and seek permission. We come to share our culture.



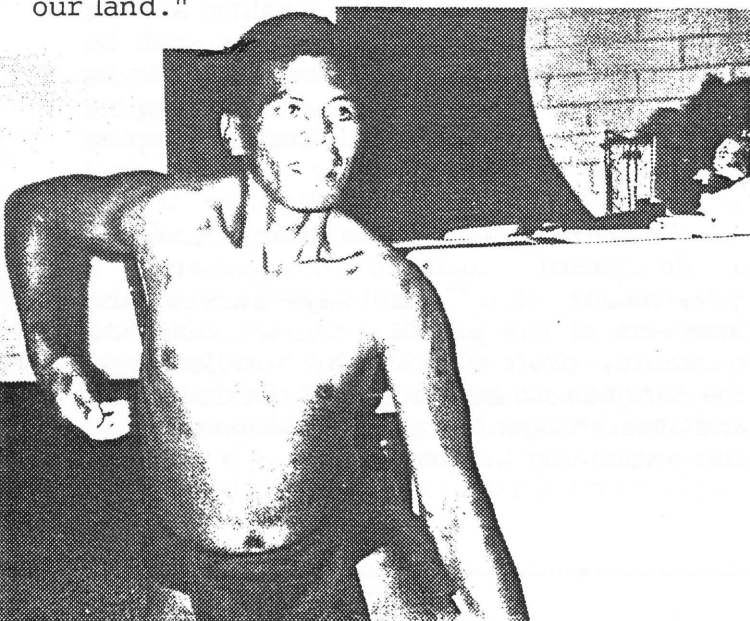
It is welcomed. Sr Bunji translates for Ben and Palawig. The door is stuck... children climb through the window. They laugh with Palawig's curious monkey. We are of the same kind - we are one. We too have survived.

Our land is our life. And even though it is now buried under 150 meters of volcanic debris, we will never give it up, our children's children will return. While a friend copies the video tape for us, BIMA interviews. Are things better under Aquino?

We go to the office to drink coffee, admire the AWD bookshop/library, and write letters home. We learn 'lakay' and 'baket' the Ayta words for husband and wife. Let's go, we're invited by Pinoys for dinner. There's one extra.. no problem! We eat, then meet.

PUBLIC MEETING sponsors: Old PASG, Uniting Church Social Responsibility Section, Australian Student Christian Movement, Centre for Philippine Concerns Australia, and Kabalikat Inc. House of Freedom is packed.

To speak with the Ayta is to speak of foreign bases. Clark and Subic occupy Ayta ancestral domain. To speak with the Ayta is to speak of self-determination. "By moving now to this tenth and final evacuation site we do not relinquish our rights or our responsibilities to our land."



WEDNESDAY IN THE FOREST up the mountain, Palawig is calling to the birds again. The king parrots are curious to meet new friends. The plants of our rainforests are no mystery to the Ayta. "This one is good for malaria, this one for stomach pain." Again we meet and eat. The young people sing a song of welcome. The even younger draw crayon pictures for Ben and Palawig's children and we all can dance the Hokey Kokey.

To speak with the Ayta is to speak of culture that knows an unbroken chain of history stretching back to the very beginnings and looks at the future with the eyes of those yet to be born.



THURSDAY morning and we drive west to look across to the dam, then go clambering over the big rocks at the creek. And then it's time to go to the city again. We stop first at FAIRA. Saying goodbye is always difficult. More friends at St. Francis are waiting for us to arrive. It's not far.. next to the brewery. A theological college next to a brewery! Ben and Palawig discuss the differences between Anglicans and Catholics.

There's the house. Hello. Hello. You've put on weight. Unload the car, the others are in the Main Hall already. Tonight we'll rest, the plane is very early tomorrow. Saying goodbye is always difficult.



## UNITE AND ADVANCE THE NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC ALTERNATIVE

### Statement of the NDF on its 18th anniversary

APRIL 24 1973. The height of martial rule. In this dark stage of our history was born the National Democratic Front (NDF).

Eighteen years have passed since the NDF first issued its 10-Point Program to rally the people to wage their gallant struggle for a free and democratic order.

From its inception, the NDF was a beacon of revolution against the repressive ruling order. Calling on the people to forge the broadest and strongest possible unity, the NDF urged Filipinos to overthrow the US-Marcos dictatorship and establish a society that truly serves the masses' interest. Against the repressive darkness, the fires of resistance burned brightly.

The NDF, along with its member organizations, waged a relentless struggle against the hated dictatorship. Despite difficulties and the severest of hardships, the revolutionary forces grew and flourished. Millions filled the ranks of the anti-dictatorship movement. In 1986, the Marcos regime was ousted with the force of a united people in the now historic EDSA uprising.

The Aquino regime that took over made many promises - promises that were broken at every turn.

Sovereignty and independence? Early in its existence, the new regime had already betrayed the country to US and Japanese imperialist interests and to the dictates of the IMF-World Bank and multinational oil companies.

Land Reform? Congress made a grand show of enacting an agrarian reform code, only to come up with a law that hopelessly favored big landlords.

Higher wages? Whatever wage hikes there were for workers and employees were quickly eroded by a galloping inflation rate. Teachers who dared launch protest actions to demand the implementation of duly mandated salary increases soon found themselves kicked out from their jobs.

Human Rights? Massacres, bombings, forced evacuations, torture, illegal arrests and summary executions are very much a part of today's repressive political land-

scape. The Aquino government now bears the dubious distinction of having surpassed the sordidness of the Marcos dictatorship's human rights record.

The new regime opened the door of peace negotiations with the revolutionary forces, dangling the possibility of a comprehensive political settlement. But the government's insincerity was soon laid bare. And soon did the bodies of massacred farmers demanding genuine land reform lie scattered along the passage to Malacañang.

With the infamous Mendiola Massacre, the regime had declared "total war" against the people.

Once more, the Filipino people have been ushered into another dark stage of history. And once more, the fires of resistance burn brightly.

As we enter the decade of the 90's, a new hope dawns for the suffering Filipino people: the hope that their years of painstaking armed and political struggles will soon bear fruit and that the nation's deliverance from imperialism, feudalism and bureaucrat capitalism is at hand.

Last year, the NDF successfully convened its First Congress where it ratified its new program - a program that outlines its vision of the free, democratic and just order it is struggling to build. To a nation beset by crisis, the NDF offers its program of struggle and governance as a viable alternative to the bankrupt ruling order.

The NDF struggles for a Philippines free from the clutches of US imperialism and its local allies. The US military bases shall be dismantled. No foreign power shall be allowed to set up military bases on Philippine soil or operate militarily from Philippine territory.

The NDF fights for the establishment of a democratic coalition government, a government that genuinely serves the interests of the people - the workers and peasants, professionals and intellectuals, the Bangsamoro and peoples of the Cordillera and other indigenous peoples, women, youth and nationalist businessmen.

The revolutionary masses, with the help of the NDF, have already sown the seeds of people's government in many barrios, districts and municipalities across the country. In these fledgling organs of political power, officials who are chosen through democratic elections work to advance the welfare and interests of their constituents.

The NDF promotes the human rights and basic freedoms of the people - the freedom of thought and expression; the freedom of the press; the freedom of domicile and movement; and the freedom of religious belief and practice. The people shall be assured of opportunities for gainful employment and livelihood.

While these rights and freedoms are enshrined in the Aquino constitution and in international agreements signed by the regime, the government merely pays lip service to them. In its daily conduct, the Aquino regime brazenly violates its own constitution's provisions on human rights and makes a mockery of international human rights covenants.

The NDF struggles to complete its own agrarian reform program started in guerrilla zones nationwide. Even now, the NDF has lowered land rent and in many areas, distributed land for free to the peasants who till them. At this early stage, revolutionary land reform has already benefited millions of farmers not only in terms of raised incomes. Step by step, revolutionary land reform frees the peasantry from oppressive feudal relations by eroding the power base of the landlord class.

The NDF advances nationalist industrialization and struggles to free the economy from the stranglehold of imperialist and monopoly control. Agriculture will be modernised to serve the needs of industry and improve farmers' livelihood. Strategic industries such as banking, energy, chemicals, pharmaceuticals and telecommunications will be nationalised and freed from the ownership or control of imperialists and their local comprador and bureaucrat allies. But

the private sector will continue to play a significant role in economic development even as the cooperative sector is expanded and the state assumes the leading role in production.

The NDF shall implement a comprehensive and progressive social policy. Concerned for the welfare of all Filipinos, especially the oppressed and exploited classes and sectors, the NDF even now strives to fill up the vacuum in social services, especially in the countryside, by launching campaigns and programs to improve literacy, health care and production.

The NDF leads in promoting a nationalist and progressive people's culture. The emerging counter-culture is one that struggles against the dominant culture which makes foreign and feudal exploitation and oppression palatable to the people. A national democratic cultural revolution is now being waged to create a consciousness that will impel the people to fight and overthrow their oppressors. This consciousness

shall give birth to a truly national and progressive people's culture. In various regions, the NDF is implementing an education campaign that seeks to liberate workers and peasants from the shackles of ignorance, superstition and the lies and half-truths propagated by the ruling classes.

The NDF upholds the rights of the Bangsamoro, Cordillera peoples and other indigenous peoples to self-determination and democracy. The NDF upholds their rights to

decide their own destiny, to free themselves from national exploitation, to achieve democracy and rule themselves and to pursue social progress in accordance with their specific conditions. This principled stand is in line with the NDF's aspiration to build a Philippines where there is unity, equality and solidarity of all peoples and nationalities.

Continued on Page 10 •



• Continued from page 9

The NDF fights for the revolutionary emancipation of women in all spheres. Women suffer from distinct forms of oppression stemming from patriarchy that has been ramified by feudalism, colonialism and capitalism. Among others, women are marginalized from decision-making in the home, in social life and government.

The national democratic revolution being waged by the NDF is fertile soil for the germination and growth of women's liberation. The NDF launches education programs to make women and men aware of gender issues and shall strive to institute measures to correct inequities against women in various spheres of life.

The NDF promotes an active, independent and non-aligned foreign policy. The NDF rejects all forms of foreign intervention and interference in the country's internal affairs. It supports all struggles and initiatives that enhance the sovereignty, independence and equality of nations and promote international peace and progress.

The NDF perseveres in waging people's war to realize this new democratic order. But it remains open to talks with the Aquino government towards the forging of a comprehensive political settlement that shall bring about a just and lasting peace. For its part, the NDF had already set forth its proposed agenda for talks last September; but the Aquino government has yet to respond to the NDF initiative.

With the nation battered by a severe crisis born out of the regime's pro-imperialist and anti-people policies, the NDF commits itself more than ever to fight for and advance the people's interests.

**FILIPINO PEOPLE, UNITE!  
OVERTHROW THE ANTI-PEOPLE  
PUPPET AQUINO GOVERNMENT!  
OVERTHROW THE OPPRESSIVE RULE  
OF US IMPERIALISM, FEUDALISM  
AND BUREAUCRAT CAPITALISM!  
ESTABLISH THE DEMOCRATIC  
COALITION GOVERNMENT!**

NDF National Executive Committee

## COLONIZATION, MARKET ECONOMY: Impact on Indigenous Women and the Environment

With the industrial revolution, capitalist development and subsequent colonization, the prominent role of indigenous women as resource managers and protectors of the environment changed. Subsistence economies which relied on nature or women for the satisfaction of basic needs had to be transformed into a market economy. Colonization had to be done to ensure the continuous supply of raw materials and develop markets which will absorb the surplus products of rich nations.

The framework of industrialization and capitalist accumulation has rendered the wealth created by nature and women invisible. Economic growth and productivity is measured with generation of cash, profit and surplus. Therefore, nature and indigenous peasant women who are engaged in subsistence food production and do not generate cash or surplus are not considered productive. They are simply resource base, raw materials, labor power and inputs.

Development from the perspective of the western development experts and multinational corporations ensured the perpetuation of the economic and political domination of the developed nations over the Third World; the domination of man over nature and over women. The green revolution of the "scientific agriculture" hastened the erosion of the subsistence economies to be subsumed into the market or cash economy. Cash crop production took precedence over production for sustenance.

The symbiotic relationship of nature and women for the production of sustenance was disrupted. The management of food systems, forests and rivers were shifted from women to food and agri-business, multinational corporations, and international lending institutions. The integrated functions of agriculture, forestry, animal raising, and water management were dichotomized and fragmented.

Forestry was treated independently of agriculture and the multiple functions and outputs of the forest were reduced into one - lumber for cash and profit. Oppressive forestry laws were enacted by colonial and post colonial governments to facilitate the logging of the forests. Forests which are communally cared for by tribes and clans ►





# INDIGENOUS WOMEN, ENVIRONMENT, and SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT PART II

By Victoria Tauli-Corpus

Cordillera Women's Education and Resource Center

were declared government or public lands & reservations. The military apparatus was used if the indigenous people defended their forests. The imposition of the western brand of commercial forestry in the Third World and in indigenous peoples ancestral homelands led to the massive destruction of forests and resulted to permanent destruction of the environment.

Social forestry which propagated single species, single commodity production plantations, destroyed the biological diversity and integrity of living resources in the forests. This biological diversity is crucial for soil and water conservation. It also meant deprivation of the traditional land use rights of indigenous women over the forests. While logging corporations and governments benefited from this arrangement, the women became marginalized. The men in the villages became lumberjacks who were paid measly sums which went into buying alcohol and tobacco.

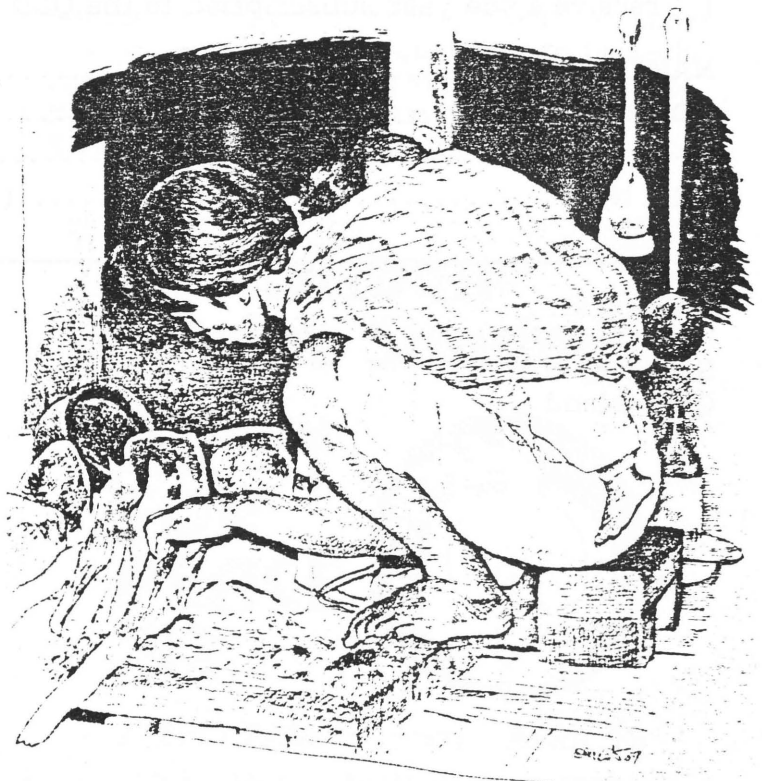
The green revolution has undermined the roles played by nature and indigenous women in sustainable agriculture. While before, the women were the ones who selected, stored and sowed varied indigenous rice varieties, this role was systematically removed from them. The control of seeds and crops, access to land use, forests and waters have shifted from women to multinational corporations, governments and international lending agencies. Renewable inputs from farms, forests and rivers are replaced by non-renewable inputs from multinational corporations producing fertilizers, pesticides, seeds and chemical animal feeds.

Irrigation water which originally came from natural rivers, streams and springs, had to come from man-made diversion dams. The indigenous irrigation systems which maintained sophisticated rice terraces and which were communally cared for was taken over by the IBRD (International Bank for Rural Development) and the IMF-WB. This was done through national irrigation agencies set up by the government. Flooding, drought, topsoil erosion and desertification

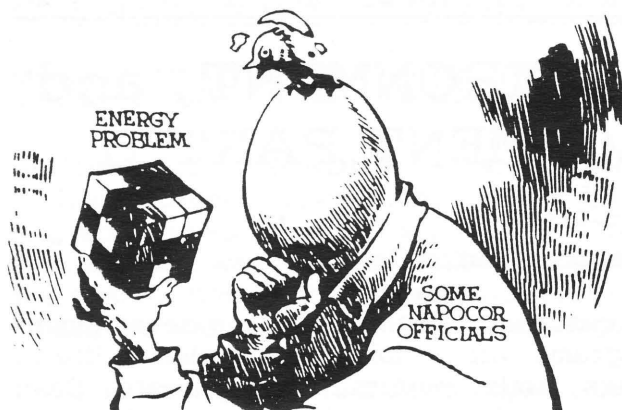
has resulted from implementing development programs which violate the cycles of life in rivers, soils, mountains and forests. Cash cropping, logging, mining, and damming rivers have resulted to rivers and groundwaters drying up, and also to water and air pollution. Water-logging and salinization developed because of the diversion of water from its natural routes.

Commercial mining which is highly destructive to the land and the environment was imposed also through legislation and outright landgrabbing. Mining laws rode roughshod over ancestral land laws. Sustainable small-scale mining activities of women and men were prohibited through laws and harassment by government and mining officials. The men were herded to mining camps leaving the women and the children to continue subsistence food production. Later the women were brought to mining camps to become housewives.

TO BE CONTINUED IN THE NEXT ISSUE:  
Militarization as a Partner of "Development"



Detail of a pen and ink drawing by Ben Cabrera from the series, Images of Women in the Cordillera.



From MATAPOS ANG EDSA: mga guhit ni Nail Doloricon



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The Philippines Australia Solidarity Group (PASG) Queensland welcomes membership of individuals who support the struggle of the Filipino peoples for independence, freedom and democracy. The group meets regularly in Brisbane. Members and subscribers are of diverse background including Filipinos and non-Filipinos. PASG QLD has close links with Filipino community organisations in Australia, the Philippines, and the Asia-Pacific region. We receive information on Philippine trade unions, churches (Christian and Non-Christian), women's groups, peasant organisations, rural conditions, teachers, environmental concerns, and the indigenous peoples in the Philippines. PASG QLD can provide resource material, slides and videos as well as speakers. CONTACT: The PASG Co-ordinator on (07) 221 9398.

PASG QLD. aims 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 peoples.

ATTENTION: PASG Co-ordinator, P.O. Box 174, St. Lucia Qld. 4067.

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