



KASAMA

Newsletter of the Philippines Australia Solidarity Group
Queensland

Nine years of regular publication

Vol 9. No. 1.

January-February 1995

\$2.00

JUSTICE DENIED

FILIPINO groups in Brisbane were outraged over the conviction of a policeman who strangled his pregnant Filipino wife and dumped her body in a ditch in Munruben on 21 February last year.

Paul Young, a Queensland policeman and former prison officer, was only convicted of manslaughter after telling the court that he had an "out-of-body" experience during the time of the killing. Young insisted that he did not remember strangling his wife, Elma, although he did recall the incident as being "like watching a movie" and "looking over his shoulder" while she was being hurt and he could do nothing about it.

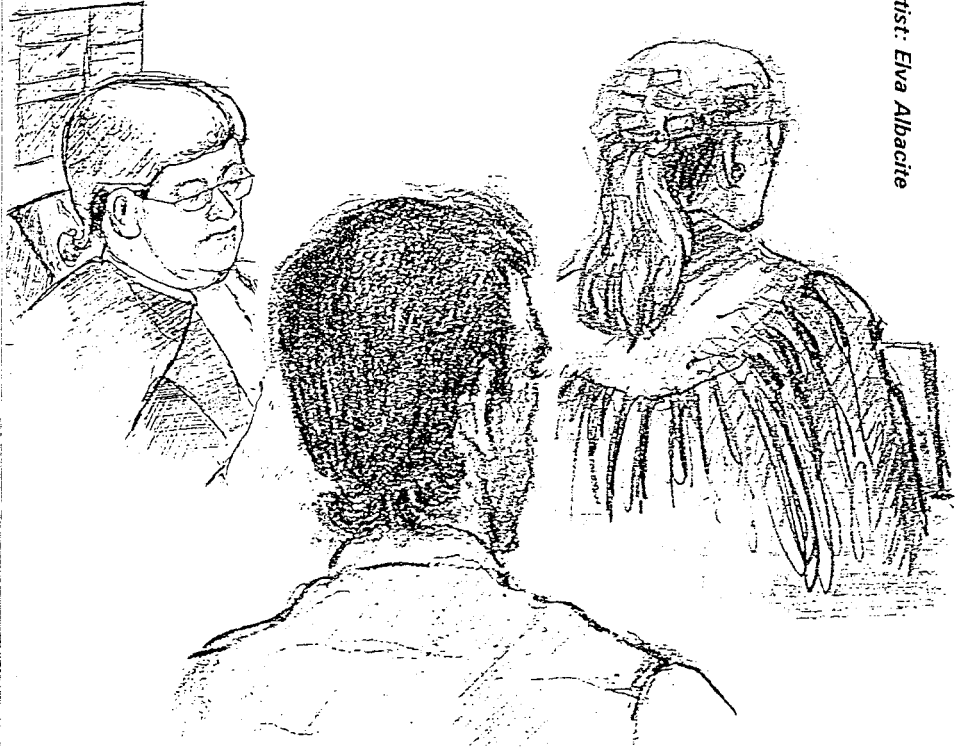
Defence lawyer, Ms Julie Dick, suggested during the trial that Young may have been in a disassociative state, a state where one suffers amnesia for a period of time. Two psychologists were called to the witness box although their opinions on disassociation differed from each other.

The jury, consisting of 6 women and 6 men, reached a decision after 24 hours. Justice Dowsett sentenced Young to 10 years imprisonment with no recommendation for parole.

Filipinos who belong to "Justice for Elma Young" were disgusted with the verdict and said, "He should have been convicted of murder, not manslaughter".

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Artist's impression of Justice Dowsett, Paul Young, and Ms Dick



Artist: Eva Albacite

In the "Twilight Zone"

by Emere Distor

ATTENDING court is not good for your health. Friends and relatives of Elma Young who were present at the trial of Paul Young in Brisbane's Supreme Court were continuously suffering from headaches and some from stress due not only to the claustrophobic environment of the courtroom but also because of the revolting legal battle they were witnessing.

The selection of the jury was no longer a surprise. As in the previous Brisbane case where a Filipina was the victim of domestic homicide, no "dark-skinned" or "Asian-looking" individuals were included. And a big "NO" for feminist-looking women (or men). Most of the jurors were middle-aged apart from two men and a woman who looked younger than the rest. One comment I heard was that most of the jurors looked "as if they have been watching the American soapy 'Days of Our Lives' all their lives.

Judge Dowsett was the preferential target of the spectators most of

the time. If "contempt of court" was never invented, invectives and tomatoes might have been thrown every split second inside Court 13. At the outset, Justice Dowsett argued with the prosecution's counsel, David Bullock, whether to show all the tapes of the police interviews with Paul on video because their length might stretch the attention span of the jury beyond their limits. Justice Dowsett argued that there are cases where showing the videos of interviews is essential but he thought that this case was not one of them.

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JUSTICE DENIED

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The Centre for Philippine Concerns-Australia observed that the presentation of some evidence during the 7-day trial was alarmingly in favour of Paul Young. Another obvious weakness of the trial was the failure to establish the history of domestic violence experienced by Elma since her marriage with Young in 1982.

"It is not surprising that we are concerned with the outcome of the trial since statistics of Filipino women murdered in Australia show a pathetic pattern of half-served justice or unresolved crime," said a CPCA spokesperson.

Elma Young, a registered nurse at the Logan Hospital at the time of her death, was the 18th Filipina killed in Australia and the fourth in Queensland since 1980.

David Mathieson is serving life imprisonment after drowning his fiancée, Teresita Andalis in 1980. In 1987, Antonio Juan Curado was convicted of murder after shooting Nenita Westhoff and her husband. Last year, Bruce James Hughes was sentenced to life imprisonment after brutally bashing to death Mila Wills, a deaf-and-mute Filipina.

A conference called "Stopping Violence Against Filipino Women in Australia" was held in Melbourne in October 1994 to expose the alarming increase of violence perpetrated against Filipino women and their children. The gathering was attended by over a hundred women from different sectors and states. Recommendations and proposals reached at the conference were submitted to the Human Rights and Equal Opportunities Commission which will release its report of Filipino women's issues sometime this year.

Emere Distor

IN THE "TWILIGHT ZONE"

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Many spectators wished that defence barrister Julie Dick was putting the argument for the other side, not only because of her gender but also due to her impressive performance and her talent to play down words like "domestic violence" into "domestic uproar". Ten to fifteen years from now, one should not be surprised if Ms Dick would publish a compilation of trimmed-down words for minimum sentencing.

Two psychologists were invited to the witness stand to prove or disprove the claim of Paul Young that he had an "out of body experience" during the time of the killing. Minus the theme song of the "Twilight Zone" in the background, Paul recalled that he was like watching himself in a movie while squeezing his wife's throat.

Both psychologists gave the entire court their expert opinions of Paul's experience. Because each has differing views on "disassociative state", all those present and even Mr Dowsett became impatient over the difference. A "disassociative state" is defined as a state where an individual is so focused to only one thing and forgets about the entire environment and has no recollection for a period of time. Judging from the recollection of Paul, cynical spectators coined a new definition of "disassociative state" as a mental mechanism to selectively forget some events in order to diminish responsibility.

But what was absolutely distressing about the 7-day trial was the failure to establish the history of domestic violence experienced by the deceased during the course of her marriage. The Department of Public Prosecutions brought Elma's mother all the way from the Philippines only to have her evidence of Elma's ill-treatment at the hands of Paul ruled by Justice Dowsett as "inadmissible". Even the testimony of Elma's 11-year old daughter, Amanda, was interrupted as she was perhaps about to make reference to certain events that occurred prior to the night of Elma's death. The unresolved mystery of this trial is how the jury was supposed to come to a decision,

at the direction of the judge about murder or manslaughter, "in the context of Mr and Mrs Young's normal relationship" when the relevant history of the relationship is judged to be inadmissible in Queensland's supreme court.

At the end of the trial everybody was disgusted and physically and emotionally run down. A former lawyer in the Philippines who was in the court on day one decided not to come again as she was dismayed of the legal process she already witnessed. One Filipino supporter already prepared his money in case he would be fined for contempt, and I know of a few who went straight to their family doctors to have their blood pressure checked.

Elma was obviously well known and liked in her community. Six hundred people attended her funeral, messages of sympathy and support have come from her nursing colleagues and patients, community organisations of Filipinos and non-Filipinos alike have expressed their concern for and solidarity with Elma's family. This support to seek justice for Elma brought many people to the public gallery of this trial and through this process of sharing and showing our concern many more of us have learned a bit more about the things we don't like in the Australian "justice" system.

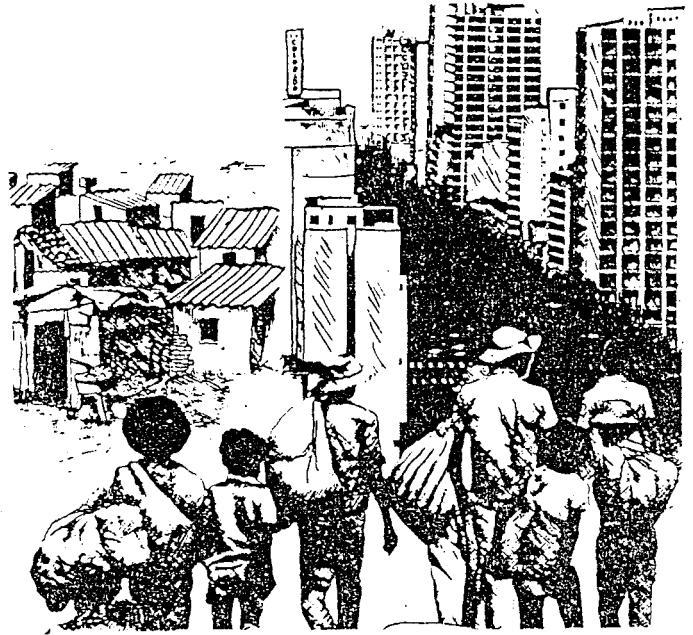


Elma Young

JAPANESE SECOND INVASION

By Emere Distor

APART from government bureaucrats and wealthy families, Filipinos are by and large hostile towards the growing influence and expansion of Japanese economic activities in the Philippines. Some theorise that such negative feeling may be the effect of the brutality of the Japanese Imperial Army during the war which was demonstrated by Filipino Comfort Women and their supporters when Japan's Prime Minister was greeted with protest placards during his recent visit in Manila. Others attribute this hostility to Japan's post-war economic invasion and the resulting dislocation of hundreds of families and the irreversible damage to environment caused by Japan's official development assistance (ODA). These families have not only lost their homes but also their livelihood due to the successive desperate bids by Philippine governments to industrialise the country through borrowing money overseas. From Marcos to Ramos, the dream for the Philippines to join the NIE's (newly-industrialised-economies) bandwagon, at whatever cost, remains strong. Both Filipino and Japanese critics of ODA believe that the economic prescription offered by the assistance scheme is often inappropriate for the receiving country, while some projects are approved to coordinate with the interests of big Japanese corporations and would-be investors.



Graphic: *The Third World War - The Philippines Front*, C.A.A.

At least in theory, ODA is Japan's aid which gives priority to poor and distressed countries. From 1988 to 1992, the Japanese government increased ODA to over US\$50 billion and has become the biggest donor of aid to Asian countries.¹ In 1985, the Philippines received US\$240 million worth of Japanese assistance for various agro-industrial projects which apparently gave Ferdinand Marcos huge kickbacks by protecting the interests of Japanese corporations involved in the project. When confidential documents were made public after the fall of the Marcos regime in 1986, the Japanese government brushed aside the story and maintained that the Marcos scandal is a Filipino domestic affair.² The sincerity of Japan's policy of non-involvement in the receiving country's domestic politics has been subjected to scrutiny as many countries which receive ODA, have been, or still are, under authoritarian regimes.

The characteristically corrupt Marcos regime protected the Japanese economic interests not solely to maintain a harmonious relationship with Japan but to increase its financial capability necessary in maintaining a dictatorial rule. After Martial Law was declared in September 1972, the mothballed Japan-Philippine Treaty, Amity and Trade was ratified and officially welcomed massive investment in the Philippines by Japanese firms.³ Even during the 1960s, Japanese enterprises were already gearing to invest overseas due to labor shortage and problems arising from industrial pollution.⁴ The problems with labor shortage were eventually resolved when Japan started importing lowly-paid "trainees" most of whom came from countries receiving Japanese

ODA. Under the administration of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and Association for Overseas Technical Scholarship (AOTS) large transnationals like Hitachi, Toyota and Mitsubishi accepted trainees in the name of "technical cooperation".⁵

When Japanese Prime Minister Tanaka Kakuei visited the Philippines in 1974, Ferdinand Marcos enthusiastically offered to welcome Japanese factories that found it difficult to expand in Japan because of environmental problems.⁶ Eight days after Marcos' public offer, the construction of Kawasaki sintering plant in Mindanao was approved. At about the same time that the plant was being built in Mindanao, the people from Chiba City were protesting the agreement between the city and Kawasaki to build a blast furnace that will produce toxic fumes that are dangerous for local residents and the environment. Despite the strong reaction against the plant in Chiba, and despite the admittance of Kawasaki that the real purpose of the Mindanao sintering plant was to control pollution in Chiba City, Marcos deployed gun-wielding soldiers in Mindanao to intimidate dissenters. It was not known how much bribe Marcos received from Kawasaki, but in order to save Japan the embarrassment of exporting pollution to the Philippines, Marcos strategically incorporated the Philippine Sinter Corporation (PC) for plant construction and operation.⁷ To this very day, the plant is still in operation and it is such a coincidence that President Fidel Ramos is a shareholder in the Philippine Sinter Corporation.⁸

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¹ "The Aid Business", *AMPO Japan-Asia Quarterly Review*, Vol. 21 No. 4 (1989), p. 2.

² "Dragging the Philippines Further Into Debt", *AMPO Japan-Asia Quarterly Review*, Vol. 21 No. 4 (1989), p. 23.

³ Yokoyama Masaki, "Not in Our Backyard: Exporting Pollution to the Philippines", *AMPO Japan-Asia Quarterly Review*, Vol. 23 No. 3 (1992), p. 25.

⁴ Kaneko Fumio, "Japanese ODA: Politics of Strategic Assistance", *AMPO Japan-Asia Quarterly Review*, Vol. 20 Nos. 1&2 (1988), p. 50.

⁵ Nishikawa Atsushi, "Japanese Transnationals & Asian Trainees: A Key to Invasion", *AMPO Japan-Asia Quarterly Review*, Vol. 13 No. 4 (1981), pp. 53-54.

⁶ *Asahi Shimbun*, 9 January 1974.

⁷ Yokoyama Masaki, "Not in Our Backyard..", p. 26.

⁸ Business Directory: Japanese Capital-Affiliated Domestic Corporations and Wholly Owned Japanese Enterprises in the Philippines, Jetro Manual and Japanese Chamber of Commerce and Industry in the Philippines, Inc., Metro Manila (1986), p. 49.

Graphic: *The Third World War - The Philippines Front, C.A.A.*



JAPANESE SECOND INVASION

◀ *Continued from Page 3*

A decade after, the Philippine government once again ventured into an equally controversial project with the Japanese. In 1984, a 300,000 kilowatt power plant called Calaca I was built in Calaca City, a rural area in the south of Luzon about 100 km from Manila. The coal-thermal power plant was built through the credit provided by the Export-Import Bank of Japan and built by various corporations namely Mitsui, West-Japan Engineering Consultants, and Kennedy and Donkins International from the UK. The problem with Calaca I started when substandard coal from Semirara Island jammed the conveyor belt which left it practically inoperational for a time. To avoid possible damage to the plant, Australian coal had to be imported in the middle of 1986 at a higher price. Although the fishermen and farmers in Calaca were excited to have electricity in their homes, their excitement eventually declined when the plant began to take its toll upon their health and livelihood. Every year residents have to deal with loud noise and vibration caused by the thermal plant. One resident recounted that the noise was so loud that one could hardly hear the voice of a person standing next to him. Sometimes lasting for more than 30 minutes, many activities had to be stopped so as to alleviate headache and dizziness. After the noise and vibration passed, people were dismayed to always find their drinking wells contaminated with white foamy substance.¹

Doctors in Calaca noticed that since the power plant started operation in 1984, the incidence of dizziness, headache and respiratory diseases became common and these are being related to the sulfuric acid gas and smoke spewed by the plant's chimney. At the same time, coconut trees and other plants had either been dying or their leaves spotted while the fishing catches are decreasing in quantity.² The

petition of Calaca residents to the National Power Corporation (NPC) to equip Calaca I with anti-pollution devices was still being studied when the government of Corazon Aquino, as if adding insult to injury, agreed in October 1986 to build Calaca II.³ The gross insensitivity to the problems of Calaca residents and the building of another plant were criticised by former Senator Teofisto Guingona who believed the construction bid of Calaca II was both "illegal and irregular".⁴ Indignant, NPC responded to the criticism the next day in the same newspaper by debunking Guingona's claim and justified the giving of the contract to Mitsubishi Corporation as it offered the lowest bid. In the same report, a representative from Mitsubishi also denied that their generator was flawed.⁵

Japanese projects linked to environmental destruction has been one of the major problems faced by many Third World ODA recipients. Since these financial aids are being used in large scale developments such as energy and infrastructure, their contribution to pollution and devastation can be alarmingly great. In an attempt to sedate the rapidly increasing hostility coming from environmentalist groups, the Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund (OECF) and one of Japan's foremost loan agencies, prepared a report and guidelines on its ODA and environmental concerns. In 1989, OECF proposed that initial environment assessments be done domestically to get the reaction of those who would be affected by the projects. At least in theory, groups and individuals could oppose both the assessment and the project if found unsafe and inaccurate. The OECF's initial process of openness to criticism and recommendations seemed to be a manifestation of a healthy attitude towards oppositionists until one discovers that the experts employed to carry out the environmental assessment were hired by JICA which manages grant aid and technical cooperation. The plot all the more thickened when reports only emphasised project modification with no mention of the possibility of suspension or interruption of any project due to environmental concerns.⁶

Why Japan's ODAs should continue at whatever cost is interrelated to the benefit of Japanese corporations involved in the projects. But what makes the connivance all the more pronounced is when the project is not even a priority of the receiving country. In 1989, the Outpatient Department of the Philippine General Hospital (OPD-PGH) received a lukewarm response from health workers because the newly-built hospital became more of a showcase of Japanese high technology which only few Filipinos could afford. Not at all surprising, Japanese construction companies were the only ones allowed to bid and, as is always the case, only the most expensive Japanese-made CT Scan unit, X-ray diagnostic apparatus and computers were installed. One of the main arguments of OPD-PGH critics is that the higher the technology the hospital adopts, the more it becomes dependent on Japan since PGH has to import most of the repair parts for these equipment and other compatible consumption articles.⁷

To be continued...

Part two will be printed in the next issue of KASAMA.

¹ Kojima Nobuo, "Calaca: ODA fuels a Dirty Power Plant", *AMPO Japan-Asia Quarterly Review*, Vol. 23 No. 1, (1991), pp. 54-55.

² *Report of the Calaca Environmental Research Group*, Philippine Environmental Action Network, June 1990, 5.

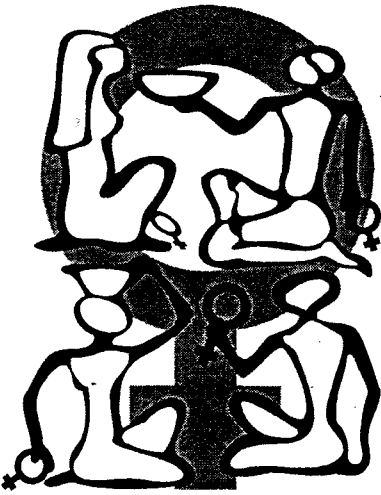
³ Kojima Nobuo, "Calaca: ODA Fuels..", p. 57.

⁴ *NEWSDAY*, 4 January 1991.

⁵ *NEWSDAY*, 5 January 1991.

⁶ Kanda Hiroshi, "A Big Lie: Japan's ODA and Environmental Policy", *AMPO Japan-Asia Quarterly Review*, Vol. 23 No. 3 (1992), p. 42-43.

⁷ "A Showcase of Japanese High Technology: Outpatient Department of the Philippine General Hospital", *AMPO Japan-Asia Quarterly Review*, Vol. 21 No. 4 (1989), pp. 24-25.



Campaign Against Sex Tourism and Trafficking in Filipino Women

Exposure/Study Tour to the Philippines June 19 - July 4, 1995

SEX TOURISM is an organised way of "shopping" for women and children. Most sex tourists are men from rich countries who travel to poorer countries where they can buy sex cheaply. An

estimated 50,000 men leave Australia every year as sex tourists. Their most popular destinations are the Philippines and Thailand. Men from the northern part of Australia go to Indonesia and Kupang in West Timor, the country's nearest neighbours.

that most relationships contracted through these exploitative arrangements were, and continue to be, marred with domestic violence and in the worst cases, spousal homicide.

The Centre for Philippine Concerns-Australia has documented to date: one murder in 1980 plus 17 murders and five disappearances since 1987 where Filipino women and their children were the victims and the perpetrators were mostly their non-Filipino partners or husbands or lovers.

In the Philippines, there are several organisations working to change this situation. Supporters can help bring these issues to the attention of the Australian & New Zealand public. Filipino women should not have to feel compelled to participate in the sex trade or "mail order bride" industries in order to increase their chances of migration. Nor should they have to endure the racist stereo-typing encountered in the country of destination.

THE OBJECTIVES OF THE TOUR

1. To expose the participants to the sex trade industry in the Philippines;
2. To bring to public attention the structural problems that bring about the massive exploitation of Filipino women internationally;
3. To explore the possibilities of an ongoing feminist exchange of views between participants from the three countries;
4. To create a strong lobby group of Filipinos and non-Filipinos combined that will advocate for policy changes that will prevent Filipino women from being trafficked by the sex tour and "mail order bride" industries;
5. To expose to the Filipino people the negative effects of the sex tour industry on Filipina migration to Australia and to other parts of the world.

TOUR COSTS: \$2,000 ex-Australia*/ \$2,350 ex-N.Z.*

* N.B. At time of print the above cost is an estimate and is subject to alteration due to fluctuation in currency exchange rates, fares, inflation, etc. Also, local taxi/bus fares are not included.

estimated 50,000 men leave Australia every year as sex tourists. Their most popular destinations are the Philippines and Thailand. Men from the northern part of Australia go to Indonesia and Kupang in West Timor, the country's nearest neighbours.

Australia profits from a trade in Filipino women to an extent that is unknown to the public. Australians are involved in the international sex industry not only as consumers, but also as entrepreneurs. Many small hotels, brothels, bars, and holiday resorts in the Philippines are Australian-owned.

Sex tours to its major cities and provincial towns are packaged and promoted in the Philippines but travel is arranged by licensed agencies in Australia. They are popular because they are affordable and convenient. For a trip to the Philippines, Australian travel agencies offer as low as \$1255 for 21 nights accommodation, return airfares and transfers. This is roughly equivalent to an Australian worker's two weeks wages.

The attitudes and actions of people who feel that women can be bought during sex tours are the same attitudes that support other practices against Filipino women both in the Philippines and in Australia. Examples of these exploitative practices are the so-called "mail order bride" trade where women can be ordered from catalogues and brought to Australia for a fee to an introduction agency, and serial sponsorship where Australian men sponsor a succession of women (who usually come from poorer countries) as fiancées or spouses.

The experience of government agencies, service providers, and community groups have shown in recent years

IN AUSTRALIA

Sydney

Joy Balazo, C/- U.C.A.
222 Pitt Street, Sydney 2000
Phone: (02) 287 0900
Fax: (02) 287 0999

or

Dr. Veth Guevarra,
17 Robert St,
Marrickville 2204
Phone: (02) 391 9275
a/h: (02) 558 0855
Fax: (02) 391 9848

Contact your local Tour coordinator :

Melbourne

Melba Marginson, CPCA VIC,
GPO Box 338,
North Melbourne 3051
Phone: (03) 329 9042
Fax: (03) 326 7140

Brisbane

Emere Distor,
CPCA Brisbane, 84 Park Rd.,
Woolloongabba 4102
Phone: (07) 891 5877
Fax: (07) 891 6944

Adelaide

Mario Trinidad, CPCA SA
a/h Phone: (08) 371 2312
Fax: (08) 239 8211

or

Joan Dicka, 7 Kings Ave.,
Blair Athol SA 5084
Phone: (08) 267 1546
a/h: (08) 344 1920
Fax: (08) 267 1546

Darwin

Bong Ramilo, CPCA NT,
GPO Box 3297, Darwin 0801
Phone: (089) 897 061
Fax: (089) 897 322

Launceston

Jill Cooper, 7 Crown Street,
Launceston TAS 7250
Phone: (003) 341 480
Fax: (003) 311 307

IN NEW ZEALAND

Eileen Shewan, P.S.N.A.,
PO Box 2450, Christchurch,
Aotearoa (NZ)
Fax: (03) 365 2919

This is not a final list of Tour Coordinators—others are awaiting group decisions. Contact the Study Tour Secretariat, CPCA, GPO Box 338, North Melbourne 3051 if you would like to sponsor and/or coordinate the tour in your area. At the current date of print (26 Feb 95) information in this flyer is preliminary.

National Security Ideology in the Philippines

In Vol.6, No.3 of this newsletter we asked *FVR: Civilian or Militarist?* That was almost three years ago in the May-June 1992 issue when Fidel V. Ramos was first elected president of the Philippines. Today the threat of a return to authoritarian state rule for the Philippines raises its snout in this Year of the Boar. The Ecumenical Forum for Church Response have published *Q&A: National Security Ideology and its Present Manifestations in the Philippines*, a primer written by the public information officer of EFCR, Arnold B. Timoteo, in question-and-answer form that examines the query '*Civilian or Militarist?*' in its current context.

FIRST, there were promises. Then, there were dreams - grand dreams of a president pretending to learn from but actually ignoring the lessons of history.

Now, as promises begin to fade in the back of his consciousness and as dreams begin to crumble slowly, Fidel Ramos consoles us with illusions - illusion of freedom and democracy, illusion of peace, illusion of economic development, illusion of unity, etc., etc. Certainly, adults need more than a figment of his fertile imagination!

Is there freedom when hundreds of "prisoners of conscience" languish in jail? Is there democracy when government is an exclusive region for the economic elite and the influential in the military? Is peace possible when Ramos is consistent with what Theodore Roosevelt said: Speak softly and carry a big stick? Is economic development possible with a strategy proved ineffective repeatedly? Is unity possible where even the chatter of guns is drowned by the cries of revolting stomachs?

Do not listen to lies! Behind the illusions used to douse our anger and hopelessness is the maneuver to fulfil a long-term political project. Behind the lies is the impatience of a president taking a more definite shape, a horrible shape. Behind it all is the surreptitious move to create a sophisticated national security state.

Ramos exemplifies the modern authoritarian ruler, able to hide his temper in his clever use of legitimate political institutions. He is in civilian clothes, using civilian language and pretending to be at ease with civilian type of leadership. But his actions expose his ignorance, if not rejection, of democratic civilian leadership.

The proposed shift to unicameralism and a parliamentary form of government, among others, reveals discomfort with the principle of checks-and-balances. A lower chamber led by an obedient stooge is not enough. Ramos would like to abolish the Senate, which refuses to fully support his legislative agenda. The president does not simply want a Congress willing to cooperate. Just like Marcos, he wants a rubber stamp. He wants his economic program approved and implemented, regardless of the repercussions. And he appears hell-bent on removing obstacles, even if this means further mutilating Philippine democracy.

There is a constitutional ban for re-election. Ramos can not run again. This explains his preference for a parliamentary form of government. With a political base he has consolidated, a "rainbow coalition" in Congress he is trying to preserve, there is the possibility of him taking the post of the prime minister. In other words, a change of form of government will give him more time at the helm.

Aside from the proposed shift to unicameralism and a parliamentary form of government, there are other moves aimed at destroying Philippine democracy. There are moves to weaken the legitimate political institutions. And there are



Cartoon: *Manila Standard* June 11, 1993

moves to strengthen national security institutions, particularly the National Security Council (NSC).

The prospects are frightening. The weakening of civilian political institutions and the strengthening of national security institutions form part of the strategy to undermine Philippine democracy and institutionalize a national security state.

We can not be over-confident. We see the smiling face of the general-president on TV and newspapers. But we know of the missed targets; the economy is not performing as expected. His smile can not hide bitter thoughts. We can hear assurances. But the voices don't sound too optimistic and convincing. Failure may narrow down the choices of the president to unpopular few.

In the face of uncertainties, NSC director-general Jose Almonte dispels rumors Ramos may declare martial law. But, he is always quick to add, the conditions for the imposition of martial law are evident. Ambiguous, just like his boss!

It is necessary to ask: In case of failure, what will Ramos do? Will he declare martial law? Will he institutionalize authoritarian rule? Will there be gross violations of human rights in the name of national security?

Who knows for sure? It is not easy to penetrate the mind of a clever imposter.

Fr. Ben Morales, CSSR, Co-chairperson, Ecumenical Forum for Church Response.

Extracts from *Q&A: National Security Ideology and its Present Manifestations in the Philippines*, published by EFCR, (55 pages). Available from CPCA, 84 Park Road, Woolloongabba 4102. Price - \$3 plus postage.

What moves have been taken to establish a sophisticated national security state?

These include the elevation of a general to the presidency, the appointment of ex-military men to key government positions, the continuation of "total war", the reactivation and broadening of the scope of the NSC, the proposal to institute a national identification system, the resort to emergency powers and the dangling of the possibility of martial rule. The revamp of the AFP (Armed Forces of the Philippines) and Philippine National Police and the modernization program for the Philippine Air Force and Philippine Navy, done to strengthen the hold of the chief executive on the armed forces, complement the initial efforts.

The peace process, in closer analysis, is a well-thought strategy of the agents of national security to fragment not only the CPP (Communist Party of the Philippines) and the whole Left movement but also the legal mass opposition. Its objective is the removal of all threats to the *status quo*.

Export-oriented industrialization, which forms part of the economic formula of the Ramos administration, is a prescription of the WB (World Bank) and IMF (International Monetary Fund) for Third World national security states. It perpetuates both poverty and repression, ingredients of a Third World national security state.

President Ramos won the 1992 elections. Is it fair to say the people paved the way for a sophisticated national security state?

No it is not. Twenty-five percent of those who participated in the 1992 elections voted for Ramos¹. To be sure, they voted for him, first, because of his role in the people-backed military uprising in EDSA and in saving Corazon C. Aquino from eight coup attempts and, second, because of the belief that he could bring about political stability. Those who voted for the new president failed to consider that he "is the thread that runs through from the Marcos regime to the present."²

The 25% who elevated the general to the presidency failed to consider that Ramos himself could, if forced by circumstances, surreptitiously develop a national security state more sophisticated than that of Marcos. The same 25%, in other words, chose Ramos for political stability; they were unmindful of the possible repercussions of elevating the chief executor of Martial Law to the presidency.

Ramos won not because of popular support. First, he had the support of his predecessor who rechannelled government resources to his campaign. Second, he was among the logical choices for the US and was thus allowed to enjoy subtle support. In other words, the votes of the 25%, assuming that the chief executive really got that much, were a result of a combination of factors. They were the quantitative expression of manipulation that involved, among others, money from the government and a portion of the business community and silent approval by the US.

¹ Vizmanos, Dan. "Learning from the May 11 Elections." *National Midweek*, Vol.7, No.21, 1992, p.5. According to *Correspondence*, published by the International Department of the Kilusang Mayo Uno (KMU), Ramos garnered "the plurality vote of 23.5 percent of the votes." See *Correspondence*, Vol. VII, No.6, July-August 1992, p.1.

² Weekley, Kathleen. "Jose Maria Sison: Talks on Parliamentary Struggle, Revisionism, Inner Party Rectification, Peace Talks, Gorbachevism in the Philippines, and the Future of the National Democratic Movement." *Kasarinlan*, Vol.8, No.2, 1992, p.76.



Q & A
Questions and Answers

**National Security
Ideology and its
Present Manifestations
in the Philippines**

Ecumenical Forum for Church Response

Ramos ran as a civilian candidate for a civilian position. Is there a reason to be afraid?

Ramos is no ordinary civilian. Under the dictatorial regime, the list of those considered a threat to national security, those considered for arrest, passed through him. Nay, the PC (Philippine Constabulary), which he headed, emerged as the most corrupt and abusive armed service.

Under Aquino, he served first as AFP chief of staff and then as secretary of national defense. Together with the upper echelon of the AFP, Ramos eased the way for the launching of an indiscriminate war. "Total war", as the main case in point, has terrorized millions of non-combatants. It has produced millions of internal refugees.

Years before coming president, Ramos helped engineer Martial Law, the low-intensity conflict, and "total war"—to be accidentally deodorized by the EDSA uprising, a coup drowned by people power, and by the crushing of eight coup attempts, some of which he tolerated in one way or another. The cunning militarist has metamorphosed into a constitutional soldier and a civilian leader with a few heroic tricks—by luck and accident. But, just the same, it is clear he is a military in civilian clothes.

Is there a connection between Ramos' military background and his elevation to the presidency?

Yes, there is. The incontrovertible fact: Ramos was chosen because of his military background.

Continued on Page 14 ➤

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N O R T H E R N D I S P A T C H

A weekly packet of news, features and analysis produced by the Cordillera Resource Center



Extracts from Volume 7 Number 2 — January 14, 1995

TFD Worker in Ilocos Abducted

BAGUIO CITY (NORDIS) -- A worker of the Task Force Detainees of the Philippines, Ilocos Sur Unit was abducted by unidentified armed men believed to be military operatives in Poblacion, Bantay, Ilocos Sur, the TFDP Cordillera office said.

The victim, identified as Julius Z. Marquez, was reportedly abducted by the armed men, who were in civilian clothes, between 5 and 6 PM last January 6 while he was waiting at a junction in Poblacion for a bus bound for La Union.

According to a witness, the armed men forcibly boarded Marquez in their jeep which had no plate number.

Senior Supt. Foranda of the Ilocos Sur Philippine National Police provincial command reportedly told TFDP members that the Military Intelligence Unit based in Bantay abducted and detained Marquez.

"Marquez may have been abducted due to his active involvement in campaigns against 'militarisation' and for exposing a series of human rights violations allegedly committed by military agents in Ilocos Sur last year," said Arnold N. Cardenas, Cordillera TFDP press relations officer.

As of today, Marquez' fate is still unknown, and MIG members refuse to allow the victim's family to see him, Cardenas said.

Marquez' relatives are reportedly worried about his safety and well-being despite statements from Dagupan military officers that he is being treated well.

The victim was also a community organizer of the Ilocos Regional Development Center when he was abducted.

Cardenas said that the military may file formal charges against Marquez. -- Alfred Dizon/Northern Dispatch

Sympathy Fast for Political Prisoners

BAGUIO CITY (NORDIS) -- The Task Force Detainees of the Philippines in the Cordillera staged a sympathy fast on January 13-14 at the Igorot Park for the release of political prisoners currently on hunger strike.

According to TFDP Cordillera regional director Artemio Dumlao Jr., there are eleven political prisoners in the Cordillera; three are detained in Mountain Province and eight in Kalinga-Apayao.

Seven of the prisoners - three in MP and four in Kalinga-Apayao - started their hunger strike January 12. "All three in Mountain Province applied for amnesty and thus hope to be released soon. In Kalinga, the prisoners are charged with criminal offences like murder, kidnap with ransom, and arson. Their cases are now undergoing normal court procedures for criminal cases," Dumlao said.

"Most of the political prisoners in Kalinga have actually 'surrendered' and yet were criminally charged. They have been languishing in jail for a period of two years or more," he added.

The sympathy fast was joined by members of human rights organizations in the region. Other activities were cultural performances, free T-shirt printing, public information on political prisoners' situation, and the airing of progressive music throughout the city's streets. The fast ended with a pagsambang bayan (community service) and an ecumenical service at 5:30 PM on January 14. -- Frank Cimatu/Northern Dispatch



For subscription rates to Northern Dispatch contact:
Cordillera Resource Center, Suite 314, Laperal Bldg., Session Road, Baguio City, Philippines 2600.
Tel: 442-4175.



MARRIED TO THE M.O.B.

THE movie, *The Adventures of Priscilla, Queen of the Desert*, is about a trio of aging drag queens who conquer the boring Australian outback with a screaming repertoire of feather boas, golden thongs, flamboyant gowns and The Greatest Hits of ABBA. Yes, most likely it will not be shown in the Philippines and Etta will find a good reason not to.

The leader of the trio, Mitzi, has a romantic interlude with a sweet and sensitive Australian chap and to sway the sympathy for them, let's say that the Australian is married to a gold-digging, foul-mouthed nymphomaniac (she even juggled Ping Pong balls "down under") mail-order bride named "Cynthia". No mention of a "Filipina" but who else can say "Putang-ina" with such conviction?

So here we go again -- the Portrait of The Filipina as the LBFM and its corollary, PWR. "Little Brown Fucking Machine Powered With Rice" -- a necessary myth to assuage the fact that in Australia, 17 Filipino women and children have died and six have disappeared since 1987.

Melba Marginson, national coordinator of the Centre for Philippine Concerns-Australia (CPCA), issued a statement saying that "the stereotyped portrayal of Filipino women in any medium is irresponsible and prejudiced."

Let this also be said to the Filipino cinematic vultures who pounce on any celebrated massacres -- You may say your intentions were to show the sordidness of society but you really are portraying Filipinas as helpless and hapless victims. You even have the audacity to use the Lord's name in vain.

Despite then President Corazon Aquino's banning of m.o.b. companies in the Philippines, the trafficking of Filipinas has gone on unabated. The government and the media may have stopped acknowledging the issue of m.o.b. but the problem is still there.

I was only first amused when New York-based Filipino novelist Ninotchka Rosca criticized Liam Neeson's careless remark in *GQ* that there were Filipinas "tied up in (his) apartment and stuff." Only when I talked to Rosca did I realize that the number of people Neeson's character, Oscar Schindler, saved during the holocaust was much less than the Filipino women we have betrothed through the mail.

There are, according to Rosca, 50,000 m.o.b. in the U.S. in the past 10 years and 500 recruiting agencies. Most of the women are 18-24 years old and some don't even know how they were recruited -- some of their names were taken from teen-age pen pal clubs and telephone directories. The customers can avail of the names of prospective brides by subscribing to catalogues worth at least \$60. A little exchange of

letters (sometimes written by the agencies), then the man can either go to the Philippines to fetch her or petition for her.

According to Rosca, most of the m.o.b. are married to s.o.b. Horror stories abound. One Filipina in Minnesota was chained every time her husband left. Another was married to a psychopath in Philadelphia who had already killed and eaten his former wives. Another who was 15 years old when married found out while she was delivering her child that her American husband went back to the Philippines to get another 15-year-old.

Last November 29, *Fraiser*, an NBC sitcom, aired an episode entitled "Quick! Get Manila on the Phone" where a husband complains of the high cost of his wife's plastic surgery, "For an extra five grand, you can get a whole new wife from the Philippines."

The Philippine Consulate wrote back to NBC saying, "Our people are not chattel. It is only unfair to a people who have done so much for the United States as its oldest ally in Asia, it diminishes the significant contributions that the large economically upscale Filipino-American has made to the very fabric of this nation."

How can the Philippine Consulate be outraged? According to Rosca, distressed m.o.b. have been calling them for help and all they can say is that the slur has stained the very fabric of America? \$5,000 for a new Filipina bride? Sometimes, all it costs is a postage stamp. -- Frank Cimatu/Northern Dispatch



Cartoon: APMMF News Digest April-June 1992

FILIPINO WOMEN & MIGRATION RESOURCE KIT: Towards Protecting the Rights of Filipino Women Migrants

On November 18, 1994 the Ecumenical Film Lovers (EFL) in Brisbane organised another of their fund-raising film events at the Village Twin cinema in New Farm. It was a full house!

The beneficiaries of the evening, Christians for Peace received \$2,000 and the Centre for Philippine Concerns-Australia received \$1,000 to further their work. CPCA-Brisbane had approached EFL on behalf of the *Filipino Women & Migration Resource Kit* project based in Manila and it so happened that this additional P17,523 was just what the project needed to meet a currency fluctuation shortfall in its \$10,155 budget, plus a bit for unforeseen costs. Three Australian organisations provided the funding for the project: the Uniting Church in Australia and the National Council of Churches of Australia each gave \$5,000, plus EFL's \$1,000.

The Kit contains information and analyses of Filipino women and migration useful for groups and individuals. As well as reporting on the major problems facing migrant women, the history of Filipino women's labour, and the cycle and feminisation of migration are discussed. There are situationers with a where-to-get-help directory covering 17 countries in the Asia-Pacific, Europe, Middle-East, North-America, and Africa. The final sections include directories of migrant related people's organisations and non-government organisations in the Philippines, Philippine government policies and agencies, and relevant international conventions and protocols.

Scheduled to be printed in April this year, the resource kit is designed in a looseleaf format that is packaged into a folder for easy reproduction. For example, information specific to her country of destination can be photocopied and given to the women.

The migration of Filipino women grew rapidly in the 80's and 90's. Before this time, most Filipino women migrated overseas to join their spouses. By the 70's the number of women who joined the labour force as contract workers in Hongkong and Europe slowly increased. By the 80's the female overseas contract workers almost approximated the number of male workers. Overseas employment data of deployed land based workers for the first quarter of 1987 put the proportion of females at 48.22%¹. Today, figures indicate that at least 50% of Filipino migrant workers are women.

Women have become the Philippine government's top labour export commodity and women's labour force is being marketed for jobs that are considered traditional roles for women such as domestic work, entertainment or prostitution. The Philippine Overseas Employment Agency's recent shift in care giver programs only responds to additional requirements for domestic helpers stipulated by receiving countries like Canada.

The export of women globally whether for cheap contract labour or flesh trade purposes has impacted on the international division of labour. The Philippines, along with other poor countries in the region has long been a source of cheap labour both for multinational companies operating in



Graphic: Asia-Pacific Mission for Migrant Filipinos (APMMF)

the country and now as migrant labour overseas. The magnitude and dimension of women's labour in migration today has grown enormously.

The *Filipino Women & Migration Resource Kit* aims to make necessary and relevant information on migration more accessible to the women who need this knowledge, especially those already in the cycle of migration. One thousand copies will be distributed to organisations in the Philippines working with women and/or migration issues thus providing a resource for their education work on an area that has now become of essential concern for Filipino women.

Distribution of the Kit is especially urgent in areas outside of Metro Manila where accurate and reliable information is often unavailable. Women rely on accounts of residents from their villages who work overseas, recruiters who usually reveal very little information to those they recruit, and official government information that focuses on processing procedures and requirements.

The expansion of this project to translate and reprint the Kit in the many languages of the Philippines is limited only by the additional funds that can be raised. If you are interested in supporting the project and would like more information, contact Qld. PASG or CPCA, or for direct communication, write to the Project Coordinator, Women & Migration Resource Kit, c/- KAKAMMPI, 3-B Potsdam Street, Cubao, Quezon City, Philippines.

From the reports of the Project Co-ordinator, Chat Garcia.

¹ Josefa S. Francisco, *Domestic Helpers in Middle East. The Trade in Domestic Helpers: Causes, Mechanisms and Consequences*, Asian and Pacific Development Centre, 1989, p.15.

Searching for the Heart of America: Reintroducing Carlos Bulosan

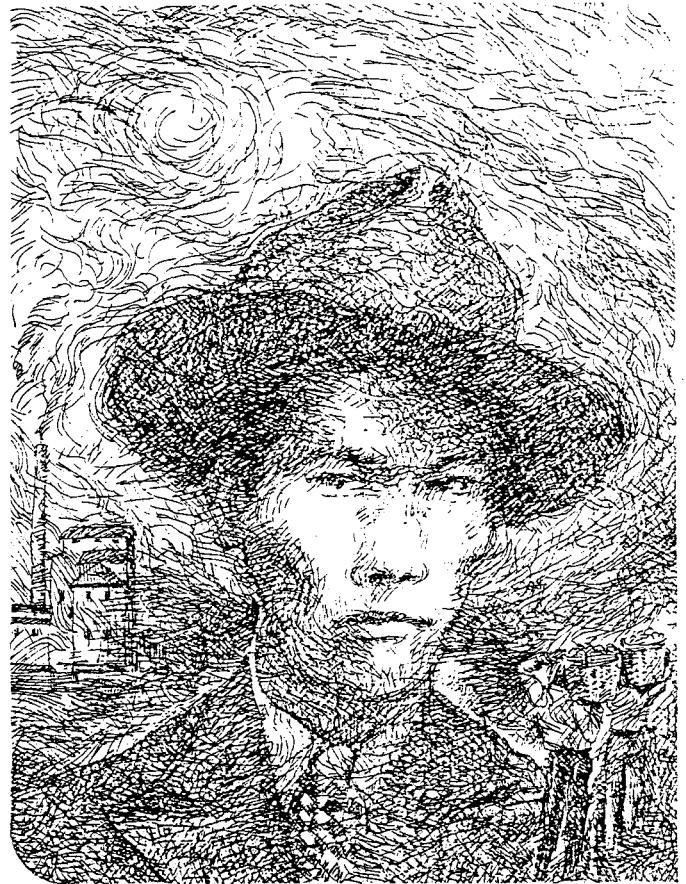
by E. San Juan, Jr.

AT the peak of McCarthyism in the 1950s, Carlos Bulosan was a blacklisted writer, perhaps the only Filipino writer in the FBI hit list. Together with Chris Mensalvas and Ernesto Mangaong, leaders of the International Longshoreman's and Warehouseman's Union (ILWU), Local 37, based in Seattle, Washington, he was scheduled for deportation as a dangerous subversive. But how could the government deport this writer who was commissioned by President Franklin Roosevelt to write an essay celebrating his "four freedoms," a manifesto exhibited at the Federal Building in San Francisco in 1943?

By that time, Bulosan, the author of best sellers like *The Laughter of My Father* (1944, translated into more than a dozen languages), and *America Is in the Heart* (1946), was cited in *Who's Who in America*, *Current Biography*, and other directories of international celebrities. His praise of populist democracy, "Freedom from Want" (*Saturday Evening Post*, March 6, 1943), fulfilled the strategic aim of artists capturing terrain in the dominant ideological mode of production. It succeeded in infiltrating a singular message that escaped the censors: "But we are not really free unless we use what we produce. So long as the fruit of our labor is denied us, so long will want manifest itself in a world of slaves."

Obscure and penniless, Bulosan died on September 11, 1956, at the height of the Cold War. He was a victim less of neurosis and despair (as critic Dolores Feria alleged) than of cumulative suffering from years of privations and persecutions since his arrival in the United States in 1931. By that time, more than 100,000 Filipino workers had been recruited from the hinterland of the United States' only Asian colony, the Philippines, to work in the plantations of Hawaii, the Alaskan canneries, and the farmlands of the West Coast. The Depression inflicted on Filipinos severe unemployment, intense labor exploitation, and racist vigilante violence. In 1928 and 1930, Filipinos were attacked by racist vigilantes in Yakima Valley, Washington; Watsonville, California, and other towns. On top of this, in 1935, when emigration from the Philippine Commonwealth was limited to fifty, Filipinos were threatened with deportation.

Since the 1898 annexation of the islands up to 1946, Filipinos in the United States (called "Pinoy") inhabited a limbo of indeterminacy: neither citizens, aliens, nor wards, they were "nationals" without a sovereign country. On the eve of Pearl Harbor, Bulosan summed up his years of experience as labor organizer and nomadic exile: "Yes, I feel like a criminal running



Graphic by Alex Umali
from the cover of *Bulosan: An Introduction With Selections*

away from a crime I did not commit. And the crime is that I am a Filipino in America." Although it gestures toward a popular front politics against global fascism, his ethnobiography written in the middle of the war, *America Is in the Heart*, is a testimony to those years of struggle and resistance to imperial racism and violence. It is essentially a critique of the paradigm of ethnic/immigrant success celebrated by mainstream apologists of assimilation into late capitalist polity.

In his *America*, Bulosan returns to what Amilcar Cabral calls "the source" to recover a submerged tradition of indigenous revolutionary culture rooted in more than three hundred years of anti-colonial insurgency against Spain and the United States. He recalls the 1931 peasant uprising against semi-feudal landlords and compradors, native agents of the U.S. colonial state, and before that the 1896-1898 insurrection against Spain. One leader of the 1931 Tayug revolt, Pedro Calosa, was in fact a veteran of the 1924 strike of Filipino workers in the Hawaiian plantations.

Continued on Page 12 ➤

Carlos Bulosan

◀ Continued from Page 11

It seems a fortuitous coincidence that Calosa lived in the same province of Pangasinan where Bulosan was born on November 2, 1911. Bulosan's adolescent years were shaped by the survival craft of a large, poor peasant family barely subsisting on a small plot of land. In his letters collected in *The Sound of Falling Light* (1960) as well as in *The Laughter of My Father*, Bulosan describes the earthy, sometimes cunning but always carnivalesque spirit of his father trying to outwit landlords, merchant-usurers, and petty bureaucrats in providing for his extended family. But most of all, Bulosan celebrates the exuberant resourcefulness of his mother—that "dynamic little peasant woman" who sold salted fish in the public market of Binalonan and nurtured Bulosan's open, adventurous spirit. Her image is sublimated in the samaritanic woman characters in *America Is in the Heart* and by transference refigured in the loyal and brave companions of Bulosan who may be read to represent the "other" eclipsed visage of a racist alienating America.

In *The Laughter of My Father*, Bulosan depicted the resistance culture of the plebeians among whom he grew up. Contrary to the philistine dismissal of these folkloric vignettes and fables as a commercialization of exotic humor and mere local color, Bulosan himself emphasized the allegorical thrust of his imagination:

"My politico-economic ideas are embodied in all my writings. . . . *The Laughter* is not humor; it is satire; it is indictment against an economic system

that stifled the growth of the primitive, making him decadent overnight without passing through the various stages of growth and decay. The hidden bitterness in this book is so pronounced in another series of short stories, that the publishers refrained from publishing it for the time being."

These latter stories attacking the predatory excesses of elite property-owners and the horror of primitive accumulation in a peripheral formation are now available in *The Philippines Is in the Heart* (1978), which I edited.

The native's return thus began with his departure for the United States. Bulosan's apprenticeship as an organic intellectual of the masses (in Gramsci's sense) started with the trials of his family to overcome colonial and feudal tyranny. While Bulosan followed his two brothers Aurelio and Dionisio to California in order to escape the hopeless poverty of his village that was perpetuated by U.S. reinforcement of iniquitous property relations, his life on the West Coast exposed him to the vicissitudes of itinerant workers and initial union organizing in the early thirties when he worked in restaurants and performed odd jobs. His friendship with Chris Mensalvas of the United Cannery, Agricultural, Packing and Allied Workers of America (UCAPAWA) led to his stint as editor of *The New Tide* in 1934. This bimonthly workers' magazine brought him into contact with progressive writers like Richard Wright, William Carlos Williams, William Saroyan, and Sanora Babb (she and her sister Dorothy, as well as Josephine Patrick, should be credited for sustaining Bulosan in body and soul for two decades). Later, Harriet Monroe, editor of *Poetry*, "discovered" Bulosan and inaugurated his inchoate reputation as an "American" writer.

But unlike his compatriot Jose Garcia Villa, Bulosan was never really accepted by the U.S. literati. Despite a shortlived fame, he was suspect, a fringe or marginal author from the "boondocks" (from the Tagalog term for mountain, "bundok"). His radicalization began with an act of "popular memory" triggered by the circumstances of colonial uprooting and subsequent oppression in the metropolis. U.S. literary historians now take account of Asians like Maxine Hong Kingston and Bharati Mukherjee, but not Villa nor Bulosan.

To be continued...

This article was first published in the *FFP Bulletin* (Spring 1993) published by Friends of the Filipino People, P.O. Box 2125, Durham, NC 27702, U.S.A.

Part two will be printed in the next issue of KASAMA.



Illustration from: *Bulosan: An Introduction With Selections*

A recent donation of books includes Bulosan's *The Philippines Is in the Heart* and *Bulosan: An Introduction with Selections*, by E. San Juan, Jr.

If you would like to borrow these or other resource materials about the Philippines and Filipinos at home and abroad, contact Emere or Dee Tel: 07 891 5877 Fax: 07 891 6944.

Profiles of Political Prisoners

RAMON

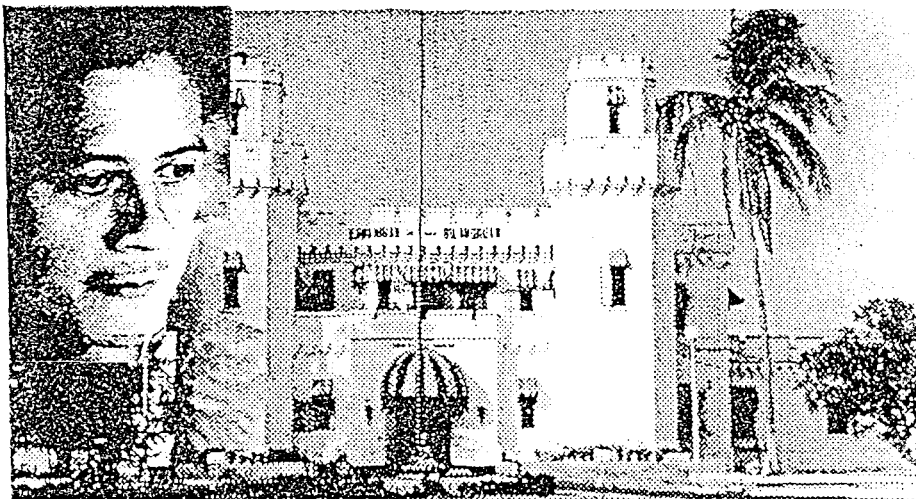
MANILA born, the seventh of eight children, Ramon's ambition was to become a civil engineer with a diploma from the Technological Institute of the Philippines. And were it not for an annoying, at least initially, group of protesting students he would have made it.

At first Ramon would have no part in the "trouble making". What he wanted was to be a "good student". Of course, he did not like the increasing fees for students and the ballooning dividends of school owners while his parents were scraping the little they had for his education. Education had become a privilege for the rich and the humiliating restrictions on student activism made him join the hardy bands of protesters and discussion groups. These groups transformed him into a critic of Philippine society.

What Ramon learned on the campus, he brought to his depressed community. They were scavengers, buyers of used bottles, scrap iron and newspapers, tricycle drivers, and jobless youth. He was an officer of President Marcos' youth movement and organized tournaments and health courses. But, into these activities, he brought reflection and discussions and he linked the problems of the Filipino poor to the corrupt political system. It deviated from the officially approved line. Even if Ramon invited them to look for themselves at reality, the officials did not like it. However, this young intellectual rascal earned the friendship and respect of simple folks. Ramon was for these people a source of information and a sounding board for their thoughts and feelings.

People in the community started joining the protest demonstrations. By now, they knew that without struggle nothing would change. These were the last days of the Marcos era. The break with the president's youth movement was inevitable and a chapter of KADENA, the militant nationalist youth organization, was put up. The next few years, the organization spread like wildfire into the surrounding districts of Manila. Rallies and protest actions were now planned and implemented by the community itself.

Those were challenging years for Ramon who devoted all his spare time to organizing and educating urban poor youth. Because of this work, his life was in danger from government agents. He was forced to remain mostly outside his community for fear of being picked up and later to be found lifeless and mutilated at a dumpsite. This had been the fate of several of his friends.

ON BOTH SIDES
of Prison Walls

One night when Ramon was asleep at home at three o'clock in the morning, the military surrounded the community, forced the people out of their homes and into a floodlight. A hooded man, so badly beaten and tortured by the military that he had to be supported, pointed at Ramon and spoke the magic word "positive". The people had been driven out of their homes because they were told a robbery had been committed. Yet murder of a colonel became the charge filed against Ramon. The hooded accuser was a member of KADENA, clubbed into a frightened wreck, who would point at anybody.

Ramon was convicted in 1991 and started serving a life-term in prison. He was put with hardened criminals, who to his surprise, treated him with respect and admiration. They whispered, "Here is a courageous man who killed a colonel and gave him his deserved punishment for breaking the backs of the powerless." This unexpected bonus made Ramon burst into mischievous laughter.

- by Jeff Demyttenaere

The author, Jeff Demyttenaere, is a member of VOLENS, a Belgian organization for international solidarity, and has been doing socio-pastoral work in the Philippines since the early sixties. He is currently a volunteer worker of Task Force Detainees of the Philippines.

This profile is originally published by Philippine International Forum as STORIES no.2, 1993. PIF is a network of people of various cultural backgrounds committed to the Philippines and its peoples as they struggle for life and self-determination. STORIES nos. 1, 2 & 3 are available by post. Send US\$15 (US dollar cheques only please) to: PIF, P.O. Box 512, Cebu City 6000, Philippines. Telefax: (63-32) 21-29-68.



National Security Ideology

◀ Continued from Page 7

In the AFP, Ramos rose to become a four-star general. He became PC chief and later AFP chief of staff. He also served as defense secretary

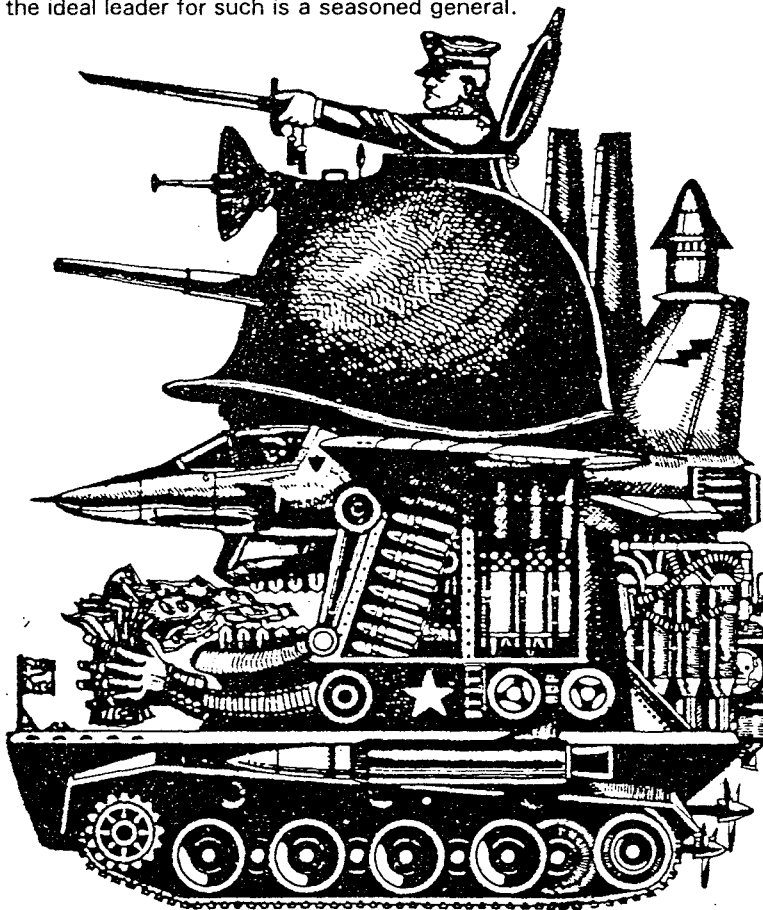
In the eyes of the Filipino elite, those whose vast economic interests could be severely affected by disturbances, those whose wealth could make a president, Ramos was – and is – the logical choice.

The US shares the view of the Filipino elite. Political stability – temporary or otherwise – can be provided by a general seasoned in the campaign against the left. The US knew that Ramos was among those who would willingly protect US economic interests in the Philippines. He would protect US multinational corporations.

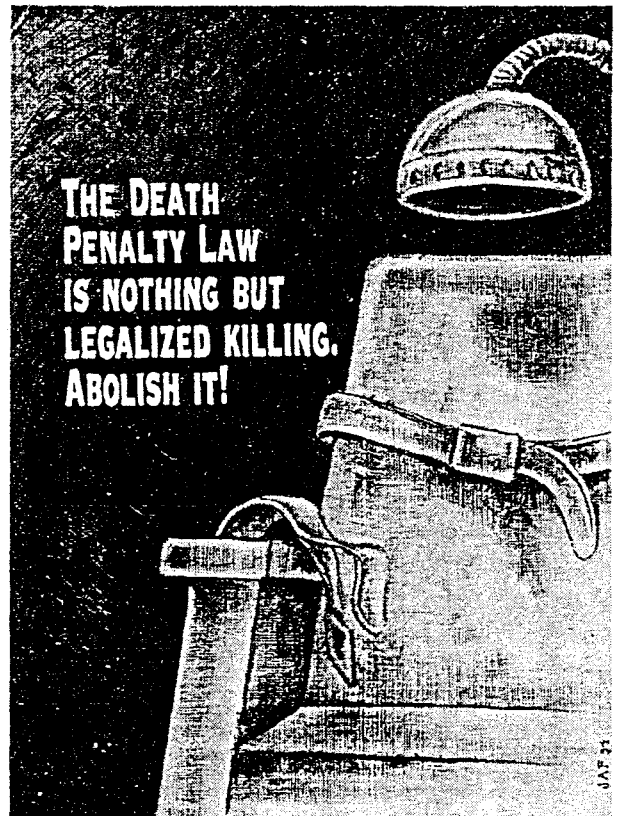
In other words, a segment of the Filipino elite and the US, traditionally the unbeatable duo of Philippine elections, as well as Aquino, mobilized their resources to ensure victory for the four-star general.

To be sure, there is a deeper reason for the rise of the general. He was chosen to be the chief executive by Aquino and a segment of the economic elite and allowed to be by the US because no one was seen more effective in leading a Third World national security state. In Latin America in the forties, Third World national security states were led by generals. They could be manipulated. Like his Latin American counterparts, Ramos has proved easy to manipulate.

A national security state is a military state. Needless to say, the ideal leader for such is a seasoned general.



Graphic: *The Third World War - The Philippines Front*, C.A.A.



**THE DEATH
PENALTY LAW
IS NOTHING BUT
LEGALIZED KILLING.
ABOLISH IT!**

IN the Philippines political prisoners remain in limbo, and their fate has been further in peril ever since President Ramos reimposed the death penalty last Dec. 3, 1993. Political prisoners may not escape its wrath since they are unfairly charged and convicted as common criminals.

We are deeply concerned about the restoration of the death penalty. We do not need justice in the death chamber; we need justice in our society. True justice is fulfilled by making people's lives better; it is not simplified by executing lawbreakers.

Urge the Philippine government to be truly just by restoring the freedom of all political prisoners, by abolishing the death penalty, and by striving to make justice a meaningful reality.

For more information about political prisoners in the Philippines and addresses to send messages of protest about the death penalty, phone the CPCA resource centre in Brisbane on (07) 891 5877.

STOP PRESS

Ramos Signs Bill for Buying up to \$15 billion in Arms

London, Feb. 23 (Bloomberg) -- A bill guaranteeing the Philippine armed forces between \$7 and \$15 billion to buy modern weapons over the next 15 years was signed into law by President Ramos, the *Financial Times* reported.



*Divide and rule
Political tool
The people to fool
A living school
The grim reaper plies a trade
Of digging his own grave
Oppression unmade
Sweet Freedom for the slave*

Kangaroo Warriors guard the rock of old
Colonial winter long and cold
Kidnapped children bought and sold
Aborigines dancing on the iron road
Imperial parliaments unload
Septic runoff in the penal code
You will do as you are told
In the chain gangs shackled to the white man's gold

A dirty game of split is played
Aussie Rules must be obeyed
The vampire referee OK'ed
Fresh blood for the wage slave trade

A banquet of seduction is prepared
Excrement smears the marriage bed
Gang Bang Racism into the head
Suck spirits dry kill essence dead

*Divide and rule
Political tool
The people to fool
A living school
The grim reaper plies a trade
Of digging his own grave
Oppression unmade
Sweet Freedom for the slave*

In the franchise of the Company
The Sergeant of Ascendancy
Dreams of Domination
To the rhythm of exploitation

The racist Dispensation
Against ideological immigration
Recites a voodoo incantation
Of multicultural assimilation

Demands constant consultation
Before each manifestation
Of Self-determination
By every Third World nation

Unequal partnership dictation
Alienates emancipation
A rats nest infestation
Of chauvinist denigration

*Divide and rule
Political tool
The people to fool
A living school
The grim reaper plies a trade
Of digging his own grave
Oppression unmade
Sweet Freedom for the slave*

The Anglo equation divides the union
Of internationalist communion
Cultural dilution is the pollution
In the Peoples' Revolution

Oppression is the business
At the interface of existence
The patriarch extracts a vengeance
A bloody price for resistance

Black sister crying in a naked cage
Tears of bitterness songs of rage
A love supreme betrayed
A hundred revolutions made

National Liberation
Announces the arrival
On the Long March of Survival
THE THIRD WORLD ARMY OF REVIVAL

*Divide and rule
Political tool
The people to fool
A living school
The grim reaper plies a trade
Of digging his own grave
Oppression unmade
Sweet Freedom for the slave*

MAX HUNT

This postcard is one of a set of six cards of different design in a presentation folder produced by the Asia Pacific Mission for Migrant Filipinos (APMMF). Sets are available from CPCA, 84 Park Road, Woolloongabba 4102 at \$6 per set of six designs.

APMMF can be contacted at No. 4 Jordan Road, Kowloon, Hong Kong. Tel. No. (852) 723 7536 - Fax No. (852) 735 4559.

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We hold regular monthly meetings in Brisbane
- ☒ Cash donations for solidarity work are always greatly appreciated. Please let us know if you wish to contribute to a specific project.
- ☒ Contact us if you would like to know about organised exposures with non-government peoples' organisations in the Philippines.
- ☒ Would you just like to know more about P.A.S.G. QLD.? Please let us send you a copy of our Aims and Constitution.

WRITE TO:

The P.A.S.G. Co-ordinator, PO Box 174, St. Lucia Qld. 4067
or PHONE: (07) 891 5877 or FAX 24 hrs: (07) 891 6944

Philippines Australia Solidarity Group Queensland welcomes membership of individuals who support the struggle of the Filipino peoples for independence, freedom and democracy. Members/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 from a wide range of Philippine NGOs and can provide resource material, slides and videos as well as speakers.

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.



KASAMA ...means friend, companion, comrade

Apologies once again for the late arrival of KASAMA. As you can see from our front page, we have been busy monitoring the trial of Paul Young in the Brisbane Supreme Court.

Included with the mailing of this issue is the newsletter of the Domestic Violence Resource Centre in Brisbane, as well as campaign materials for the June 19 to July 4, 1995 exposure/study tour to the Philippines, plus other brochures of interest.

If undelivered please return to:

PASG Q'ld.
P.O. Box 174
St. Lucia 4067
Queensland