

The people's national newspaper

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'UNIDO NOT UNWANTED'

By CHIT ESTELLA
Staffmember

Vice-President Salvador Laurel has chided Local Governments Minister Aquilino Pimentel for saying that the United Nationalist Democratic Organization (UNIDO) would be defeated in an election.

Laurel, UNIDO chairman, also lashed out at Pimentel, leader of the PDP-Laban, for saying some UNIDO incumbent officials were replaced following the people's wishes.

While at first saying he would rather not comment on Pimentel's statements during a television talk show, "Straight From the Shoulder," Laurel eventually said, "Mahirap magyabang. Nagpapa-taasan lang ng ihi, wala namang lumalabas."

He said the holding of elec-

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Unido (From page 1)

tions, would settle the question of which officials have the support of the people. "The proof of the pudding is in the eating," he said, using an old cliché.

The UNIDO, through its secretary-general Rene Espina, had earlier accused the Aquino government of conducting a "mass slaughter" of elected officials by replacing them with officers-in-charge.

The UNIDO, the party under which Mrs. Aquino ran during the

presidential campaign, added its members had been overlooked in the appointment of OICs.

Worse, UNIDO members who were holding office were included among those who were ordered replaced by Pimentel, Espina said.

After mounting an open criticism against the Aquino administration and failing to obtain their demands, UNIDO leaders eventually quieted down and admitted there was nothing else they could do.

Laurel himself said that the organization was now putting its hopes on the local elections expected to be held early next year.

High MFA officials linked to passport mess

By CHIT ESTELLA
Staffmember

A consular services officer of the foreign ministry revealed yesterday the existence of high officials within the ministry who are allegedly in cahoots with "scalawag agents" running illicit operations in the passports office.

Solita Aguirre, executive director of the Office of Consular Affairs whose ouster was sought the other day by travel and labor recruitment representatives, lashed back at her critics and called them "hoodlums."

The travel and labor recruitment agents who picketed the foreign ministry Thursday have accused Aguirre of inefficiency in the release and processing of passports.

Aguirre, saying the accusation was unwarranted, claimed the protesters were instigated by "some politicians" whose men were removed from the

consular office Wednesday and who in turn, were serving as contacts of the agents.

These high officials, some of them ambassadors, were also said to have long been wanting to control the consular affairs office, particularly the P10-million fund it has saved through the years.

Asked about the identities of the officials concerned, Aguirre said she will divulge them "in due time." She hinted, however, that they include those who had just been promoted in the ministry and continue to work there.

"They want to put their own people back, the ones we have re-

moved... the ones who used to receive honoraria for not doing anything," Aguirre said.

She said the interest of these "very high officials" centered on money. "If there was no pecuniary consideration, there would be no problem about it," she added.

Answering criticisms about the reported slow pace of issuing passports, Aguirre said the consular office's usual manpower of 200 has recently been pared down to just 75. Many consular officers were posted for jobs abroad and they have not yet been replaced, she said.

She said in the past few weeks, consular personnel have worked for

two Saturdays without pay just to catch up with the 3,000 passport applications arriving at their office everyday.

Commenting on complaints regarding the poor conditions at the office, Aguirre said it should be the employes, not the agents, who should complain. Leaking roofs are not repaired and electrical disruptions slow down the work, she pointed out.

She described the consular office at the Experimental Cinema of the Philippines building as a "dungeon" and a "hole," saying a career officer does not have to work there.

Investigation on the alleged inefficiency at the passports office began yesterday, ministry sources said. The results of the investigation will be known Tuesday.

TUESDAY • JULY 29, 1966

Soviet attack unlikely if US bases go

By CHIT ESTELLA
Staffmember

The removal of American military bases from the Philippines will not result in a communist takeover or a Soviet invasion of the country, a paper by a group of University of the Philippines professors and other concerned organizations said yesterday.

The paper, entitled "RP Views," was put out by the International Studies Institute of the Philippines, the UP Manila College of Arts and Sciences and the Third World Movement Against the Exploitation of Women to counter a document earlier issued by the US Embassy entitled "US Views."

The professors, led by Prof. Merlin Magallona of the UP College of Law, said the experience of Thailand disproves the claim that a pull out of US bases would be conducive to a communist-inspired takeover.

The bases, stationed in Thailand since 1950, were closed down by the Thai government when it failed to obtain from the US a guarantee of greater access to confidential information regarding the bases and of jurisdiction over all criminal offenses, the paper said.

Despite the withdrawal of US forces and installations from that country, Thailand has remained a non-communist state, it added.

The paper also said the absence of American military bases from the

Philippines would not necessarily invite Soviet intrusion. It cited a Pentagon statement reportedly saying that neither the Soviet Union nor the People's Republic of China represent a military threat to the Philippines or any state in southeast Asia.

Another study reportedly made by the London-based International Institute for Strategic Studies said that the nearest Soviet military presence, as far as the Philippines was concerned, are the Soviet forces in the Indian Ocean. These forces, the IISS said, were regularly placed there only after the introduction of US Poseidon missiles in the same area.

In Cam Ranh Bay, Vietnam, Soviet forces and ships only retain an access but do not control it as US forces in Clark and Subic do, the paper said.

Disputing the US Embassy report that sovereignty in the Philippines is not threatened by the bases because of their similar presence in other countries, RP Views said that unlike the other countries, the Philippines' agreement with the US appeared to have been the "formalization of a fait accompli."

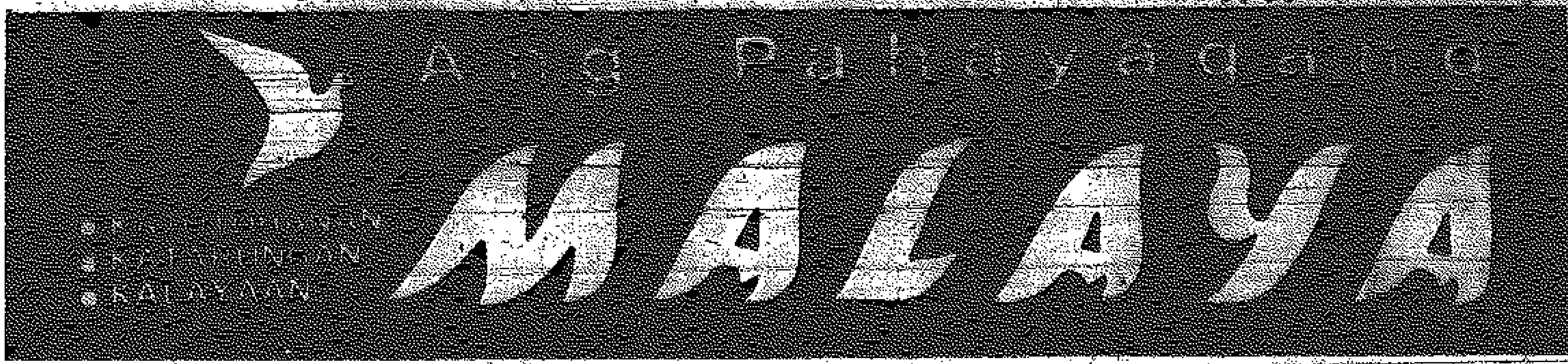
"US military installations... are here not because we agreed, but

because they were imposed by the colonizer as a reservation upon the grant of independence. The Philippines had no choice," it said.

The paper further stressed that military agreements entered into by the US with other governments gave more control to these host countries

than they did to the Philippines. An example cited was Turkey whose forces reportedly constitute 50 per cent of the total strength in each military installation.

Moreover, the US is merely allowed "to participate in the defense measures to be carried out in the installations" which remain under the Turkish Armed Forces.



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Passports chief fired

BY CHIT ESTELLA
Staffmember

A consular officer who threatened to reveal the identities of "very high officials" within the foreign ministry who supported illegal activities in the passports office has been recommended for replacement, it was learned yesterday.

Vice President Salvador H. Laurel told newsmen that a body assigned to investigate the conditions at the passports office had recommended the removal of

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Passports

(From page 1)

Solita Aguirre from her position as executive director of the Office for Consular Affairs.

Although he refused to categorically say that Aguirre would be replaced, Laurel said, "we are deciding who (would be) strong but acceptable" to the other officials and personnel.

Ministry sources said Aguirre has become a controversial figure in the ministry office because of her "tendency to be brutally frank and to rub other people the wrong way."

Aguirre, however, had said that there were other reasons why her removal was being sought. She said that in the course of the ministry's efforts to clean up and improve services at the consular affairs office, certain personnel who happened to be backed up by some ambassadors were transferred.

These employees, Aguirre said, had long been receiving honoraria for services that have not been rendered. A transfer, she added, was the quickest way her office could get rid of such employees without having to go through the rigors of filing administrative or

criminal charges.

The official hinted that it is these ambassadors, whose identities she would reveal "in due time", who probably sought her ouster.

Laurel's action on the results of the investigation will be made this week.

Meanwhile, the foreign ministry announced yesterday the appointment of the following officials to head the various offices in the ministry: Monico R. Vicente, Special Assistant and Chief Coordinator, Office of the Minister; Ernesto C. Pineda, Assistant Minister, Office of Middle Eastern and African Affairs; Romeo A. Arguelles, Secretary-General, Board of Overseas and Economic Promotions; Leonides T. Caday, Assistant Minister, Office of American Affairs; Romeo C. Fernandez, Assistant Minister, Office of Protocol; Cesar Pastores, Assistant Minister, Office of Inspection, Intelligence and Legal Services; Rodolfo C. Severino, Assistant Minister, Office of Asian and Pacific Affairs; Rora N. Tolentino, Assistant Minister, Office of Public Affairs; Hermenegildo B. Garcia, Assistant Minister, Office of Consular Affairs; and Armando C. Fernandez, Acting Director, Foreign Service Institute.

WEDNESDAY * JULY 30, 1986

Charter too detailed - Doy

By CHIT ESTELLA and BUTCH FERNANDEZ
Staffmembers

Vice President Salvador H. Laurel criticized yesterday a provision adopted by the Constitutional Commission prohibiting green card holders from holding office in government, saying such a detailed policy does not belong in a Charter.

While agreeing the provision was in essence a "good policy," Laurel asked, "Should it be in a Constitution or in a legislation?" He added that a Constitution should state only the general principles that guide a nation and the framework of the government.

"It is not supposed to have the prolixity of a legal code," he said.

Laurel has long been criticizing what he called the tendency of the Constitutional Commission to discuss "details" that could be

taken up in other venues.

He opposed, for instance, the insertion of a provision banning foreign military bases in the country and suggested instead the holding of a plebiscite to settle the issue.

On the matter of green card holders, or Filipinos who have acquired permanent resident status in the US, Laurel said it was a step that some officials in the new government were forced to take during the Marcos administration because of the harassment they suffered.

"We should be open about it. If you're a green card holder, why hide it?" he said.

Meanwhile, a proposal among top administration officials to change the status of the military bases agreement with the United States into a treaty was also revealed by Laurel.

The Vice President said under the proposal, the consent of Congress and of the Filipino people would be required before such an agreement would be enforced.

Local Governments Minister Aquilino Q. Pimentel Jr., meanwhile, denied reports that he belittled the capacity of the Unido to win in the forthcoming elections.

In a prepared statement, distributed to reporters during a press conference at Pimentel's office yesterday, Pimentel said he considers Laurel's party, the Unido, "an ally in the coalition supporting the government of President Aquino."

Pimentel pressed the hope that "the de facto coalition" of PDP-Laban and the Unido will continue to "survive the intrigues and machinations of parties whose private interests lie in the promotion of Marcos-centered politics and the whittling down of support for President Aquino."

"I salute Vice President Laurel for his restrained comment on the maliciously motivated statements attributed to me. He is indeed a political pro," declared Pimentel.

Russ proposes talks on arms reduction in Asia

Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev has said his country would respond favorably to a reduction of US military presence in Asian countries like the Philippines as a step toward building security in the Asian-Pacific region.

A copy of Gorbachev's speech, which he gave Monday in the Soviet City of Vladivostok, was provided yesterday by the Soviet Embassy here.

"In general, I would like to say that if the United States gave up military presence, say in the Philippines, we would not leave this step unanswered," Gorbachev said.

He proposed the holding of talks to reduce the activity of fleets, particularly nuclear-armed ships, in the Pacific.

He said the restriction of rivalry in the sphere of anti-submarine weapons could become a "substantial confidence-building

By CHIT ESTELLA
Staffmember

measure."

The proposals of Gorbachev, who is secretary-general of the Central Committee of the Soviet Union, earlier warned that "the Pacific Ocean is turning into an arena of military political confrontation."

He compared the situation in Asia with that of Europe. He said while the Pacific region is not yet as militarized as Europe, "the potentialities of militarization are truly immense, and the consequences . . . extremely dangerous."

"Major nuclear powers are situated here in Asia," he said.

Unlike Europe, however, Asia does not have a process by which dialogs can take place, Gorbachev noted.

Dialogs bring in a "certain stability and reduce the probability of armed conflicts. In the region in question, this is absent or nearly absent," he said.

Explaining his country's concern

over the threat to stability in the Pacific region, Gorbachev noted that a large part of Soviet territory is in Asia.

The Soviet Union's farthest island is only 7 kilometers away from the nearest territory of the United States.

As a step toward improving the chances of achieving international security and cooperation in the Pacific region, Gorbachev said his government is prepared to expand ties with Asian countries like Indonesia, Australia, Thailand, Malaysia, and Singapore.

He encouraged the ASEAN's moves to create a zone of peace, freedom and neutrality in the region.

"There are no insurmountable obstacles in the way of establishing mutually acceptable relations between the countries of Indochina and ASEAN," he said.

The Soviet leader also said his government favors a stop to the proliferation and buildup of nuclear weapons in Asia and the Pacific Ocean.

His country, he said, has pledged not to increase the number of medium-range nuclear missiles in its territory which forms part of Asia.

The happy unemployed

By CHIT ESTELLA

Staffmember

By Aug. 15, a total of 113 employees of the Banahaw Broadcasting Corp. will be terminated. But no one is said to be complaining.

For those whose services will end on that day, some P6 million in separation payment is expected to be given to them by the BBC management when the station is turned over to the ABS-CBN.

BBC sources said the amount will come from an old collective bargaining agreement stipulating that an equivalent of one and a half months in salaries be given for every year of service to employees who have been with the company for at least 15 years. Those whose employment period is less than that would get the equivalent of one month in salary for every year of service.

Sources added that the employees will seek an additional equivalent of two months salaries or what the BBC management had given to some of its employees who were terminated last year.

With the combined amount, the employees said they stand to receive an average of P50,000 each.

BBC, whose real owners were said to be former Ambassador Roberto Benedicto and President Marcos, will be turned over to ABS-CBN 14 years after the latter closed down.

In 1973, a lease agreement was signed between ABS and the Benedicto-owned Kanlaon Broadcasting System whose facilities were destroyed after a fire razed its studio on Roxas Blvd.

Although the agreement did not include the use of ABS-CBN's television channels and radio frequencies, the KBS nevertheless began operating Channels 2 and 4 and began using the corporation's Manila radio stations, 13 provincial radio stations and five provincial TV station.

Channel 2 came under the call letters of the Banahaw Broadcasting Corp. while Channel 4 came under the Maharlika Broadcasting System.

Not a single centavo was paid to ABS-CBN for the use of the facilities.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 2, 1980

NEWS

Joker forming separate MND, Unido charges

By CHIT ESTELLA

Staffmember

Executive Secretary Joker Arroyo has been accused of trying to set up a "separate ministry of national defense" by proposing the creation of a position for deputy executive secretary for defense.

Without identifying his source and the other circumstances surrounding the alleged proposal, Rene Espina — secretary-general of the United Nationalist Democratic Organization — told newsmen yesterday that Arroyo had "quietly" suggested to President Aquino the creation of such position.

Quoting a "very reliable source", Espina said the person being tapped for the position was Rafael Ileto, at present deputy defense minister.

The UNIDO official, however, decried Arroyo's alleged move and described this as an attempt "to cut down the influence of (Defense Minister Ponce) Enrile and (AFP chief-of-staff Fidel) Ramos."

"It is a very dangerous proposal that would create intrigue and break the unity of the military," Espina said. "We cannot afford all these intrigues at the same time."

Espina said UNIDO had urged President Aquino to remove three members from her Cabinet. These are Local Governments Minister Aquilino Pimentel, Labor Minister Augusto Sanchez and Executive Secretary Arroyo.

Explaining the demand, Espina said Pimentel had "caused division among the people" because of the controversial appointment of officers-in-charge.

He claimed that by appointing questionable OICs, Pimentel had diverted the attention of the people from the country's more serious problems, such as insurgency and the economic crisis.

SUNDAY * AUGUST 3, 1986

Help pledged to recover crony wealth in Australia

By **CHIT ESTELLA**
Staffmember

Filipino residents in Australia offered yesterday to help the Philippine government get back the allegedly ill-gotten property of former Ambassador Eduardo Cojuangco Jr. even as they revealed the existence of similar hidden wealth by former government officials, including Panamin boss Manda Elizalde.

In a letter to Jovito Salonga, chairman of the Philippine Commission on Good Government, the Filipinos, who organized themselves into the "Bayanihan ng mga Pilipino sa New South Wales," proposed the creation of a "Balikyaman Coalition" which, they said, "may choose to act on other crony properties" in Australia.

They suggested the launching of a campaign on the Mudgee Stud Farm of Cojuangco, a property in central New South Wales.

Bayanihan said the farm cost \$13 million three years ago and is considered the most prominent symbol in Australia of the "avarice of Marcos and his ilk."

The group also revealed the existence of similar crony holding

Farms bought by Elizalde and other allegedly close associates of Marcos, the Sabido family, were reported to cost more than Cojuangco's property.

How Soviets view US bases' presence in RP

By CHIT ESTELLA
Staff member

On July 28, Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev delivered in Vladivostok a speech detailing his government's proposals to reduce political tension in various parts of the world by reducing superpower military rivalry.

His statement mentioned his administration's views on the ASEAN, its prospects for future dialog with other nations, and the conditions in the Asian-Pacific region.

In a very timely sense, Gorbachev also drew attention to the American military presence in the region — particularly in the Philippines — and strongly indicated that its removal would affect Soviet military policy in this part of the world.

The speech, which got varying reactions from Soviet observers and some world leaders, was described by Soviet Ambassador to the Philippines Vadim Shabalín as "significant."

"It is an important working paper for our foreign policy . . . and a list of concrete measures which should be undertaken by our foreign policy officers and diplomats, particularly in this region."

Developments such as this have come at a time when the young gov-

ernment under President Aquino is likewise searching for new directions in its foreign policy.

With the Philippines already entangled in the web of superpower rivalry, the new administration's declaration of its intention to pursue an independent foreign policy would have to face one of its important tests.

Following are excerpts of Malaya's interview with Mr. Shabalín:

MALAYA: Mr. Gorbachev, in his statement at Vladivostok, said among other things, that the removal of American military presence in the Philippines will not be left unanswered by the Soviet Union. Exactly what did he mean by this?

SHABALIN: The statement means first of all our political will, our desire and our preparedness to negotiate on both bilateral and multilateral levels and to look for ways through which military presence of both powers would and should be reduced.

Using not a diplomatic but a journalistic language, I should say we are ready to open our doors on this matter. In particular, we are ready to discuss the necessity of reducing military fleets in this region. We would like to start first of all with the reduction of rivalry in the field of anti-submarine

weapons, in certain zones in the Pacific which create instability in the region.

So, this statement is both addressed to the United States and to a certain extent, the Philippines.

MALAYA: It would seem there was a shift or a change in Soviet policy then. What brought about this change?

SHABALIN: I think there had been no change in our political line and our political force in general. More than once, the Soviet Union has put forward certain proposals on all regions of the world, particularly the Asian-Pacific region. I should say that what is new is not the shift in our foreign policy regarding this region, but the introduction of new concrete proposals.

MALAYA: Do you think it would be realistic to expect the removal of US military bases in the Philippines in the near future?

SHABALIN: The question is addressed more to the Philippine people and government as well as the American government and people, not to the Soviet Union. But I would like to say something.

A long time has passed since the conclusion of Philippine-American agreement on the bases. Here in the Philippines and around it, changes are happening. I would like to say that the

changes in the country are aimed at strengthening independence and sovereignty.

The issue of the bases is being discussed within the framework of the Constitutional Commission. We paid due attention to the statement made by Madame Corason Aquino that the Philippine government will keep its options open until 1991. But we are realists. And we understand that there is still an agreement which provides for the retention of American military bases in this country until 1991.

In my opinion, the most probable and realistic way is the reduction of military activities in this region. This process could and should take place in two or three years.

MALAYA: But one of the reasons put forward for the retention of the US military bases here is the contention that if the US moves out, the Soviet Union would come in.

SHABALIN: One of the main meanings of Mr. Gorbachev's speech is that we should start reducing military activities and political tension in this part of the world. American bases were removed from Thailand, but nobody knows about the Soviet Union moving in because there is no such fact.

I would like to say not as a diplomat but as a human being, these conceptions or assertions that if Americans would leave this country, the Russians will move in are nonsense.

MALAYA: How does the Soviet Union view the recent ASEAN meeting in Manila, particularly with regards to the points raised on the arms race?

SHABALIN: We understand that calls were raised for the elimination of arms race. This call is addressed to both the Soviet Union and the US. But our country and the US are being placed on the same level, which is not correct. Our country was never an initiator of the arms race. Our efforts were only aimed at not lagging behind the US which initiated the arms race.

We believe the superpowers should implement their commitment with regards to the SALT-II treaty. It is our position that the treaty should not be ignored.

We welcome the efforts of ASEAN countries to create a zone of peace, freedom and neutrality in Southeast Asia. These efforts are well in line with our own regarding the reduction of hostilities and creation of peace in the region.

MALAYA: What about the Kampuchean issue?

SHABALIN: We understand also the interest shown by ASEAN in solving the so-called Kampuchean problem. We likewise note the interest demonstrated by the governments and peoples of the Indochinese nations — namely the Republic of Vietnam, the Republic of Kampuchea and Laos — in solving this.

I believe the problem must be solved without the participation of Pol Pot or his regime which annihilated about three million people in Kampuchea.

Secondly, I believe the problem or issue should be solved without any foreign intervention. Issues should be solved only by the people of the Indochinese peninsula.

In the speech of Mr. Gorbachev, he said the process can be facilitated by the links between ASEAN and countries of Indochina.

MALAYA: What do you think of the ASEAN's position on trade protectionism?

SHABALIN: We welcome the moves of the organization to strengthen cooperation among the member-states. We believe these moves are aimed at strengthening economic independence

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How

(From page 3)

I would like to assure you the publication of this sort in our country about the Philippines never appeared and will never appear.

and the growing economies. our country, children below 8 years old are being exploited. That in our country, churches are closed and that Soviet citizens are prohibited from professing their

Comecon is a serious organization, so is the ASEAN. We believe there is the possibility of establishing cooperation between two serious organizations.

We support the efforts of developing nations against protectionism by industrialized nations. We understand the essence of the resolution of ASEAN regarding protectionism because our country is also subject to discrimination by capitalists.

MALAYA: How would you describe Philippine-Soviet relations today?

SHABALIN: We are satisfied with the present level of bilateral relations but we think and we believe in the possibility of further strengthening these in various fields.

Some good signs for improvement have appeared. For example, our countries exchanged congratulatory messages in the highest levels on the 10th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic ties between our two governments. This has not happened before.

There is a new Philippine Ambassador to the Soviet Union. There was no ambassador for four years. The position was vacant under the Marcos administration.

MALAYA: There were reports that agreement concerning Ambassador Alejandro Melchor's acceptance by the Soviet government took long in coming.

SHABALIN: I must say that the choice of ambassador is completely the prerogative of a particular country. The agreement on Melchor's appointment was issued in four or five days only. This doesn't happen very often. From our side, it was a manifestation of our desire for good, friendly relations.

MALAYA: How do you propose to improve Philippine-Soviet relations?

SHABALIN: On the development of bilateral relations, both sides should demonstrate more clearly the political will and preparedness to develop such relations. We must create an atmosphere of mutual trust and understanding. We already have an atmosphere of understanding, but this should be more clearly manifested.

I believe we should broaden the exchange of delegations and contacts in different fields. I think a very important role in this process (must be played by) the media. For us, for example, it is funny and sometimes embittering to read articles in Philippine newspapers which say that in

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Bosworth airs fears over NPAs

By CHIT ESTELLA and
VITTORIO VITUG

Staffmembers

United States Ambassador Stephen Bosworth expressed concern over the insurgency problem and asked why ceasefire negotiations with the insurgents have not yet started in a meeting yesterday with Vice President Salvador Laurel.

This developed as military sources said the United States will provide the government with more armored vehicles, helicopters and army trucks to boost the military's combat capability against the rebel New People's Army.

The sources said the US, through its 1986 military assistance program (MAP), will give the military at least 8 helicopters, 150 combat trucks and 15 V-150 "Commando" armored vehicles.

Laurel said that although his conversations with the US envoy — who is back in Manila after a three-month vacation leave — centered on the trip of President Aquino to the US in September, Bosworth also "asked why peace

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Bosworth

(From page 1)

talks with the rebels have not yet started."

(Government negotiator Agriculture Minister Ramon Mitra, disclosed yesterday he has met with rebel representatives. See story on this page).

Laurel told reporters: "I answered that we cannot expect representatives of the Communist Party (of the Philippines) to meet with representatives of the new government until the draft new Constitution has been finalized."

Laurel surmised that the Communist Party was "delaying" negotiations because it is waiting for the outcome of the Constitutional Commission's deliberations on the bases issue.

"If they see there is no provision for the removal of the bases, they'll probably campaign against it. If there is, they'll probably campaign for it," Laurel said.

On the US military aid, sources said no guns and ammunition will be provided since the 250,000-strong Armed Forces is already capable of manufacturing its own guns and bullets under the self-reliance development program.

Sources, however, said at least \$60-million of the \$100-million MAP will be spent for the maintenance of existing equipment in the military's inventory. Only \$40-million will be used to get brand new equipment, sources disclosed.

On the pipeline are engineering equipment, psychological warfare facilities, mortar sets, communications sets, health services equipment, military clothing as well as aviation and marine fuel.



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Coup ruled out during Cory's trip

By CHIT ESTELLA
Staffmember

Top officials of the United Nationalist Democratic Organization (UNIDO) ruled out yesterday the possibility of a coup d'etat by any person or group during President Aquino's official visit to the United States next month.

Vice President Salvador H. Laurel, who takes over the presidency while Mrs. Aquino is out of the country, said there was no way former President Marcos could return to the Philippines.

Unido Secretary-General Rene Espina, on the other hand, said the military will not likely stage a coup since its top leaders believe that such an action will only benefit the communist movement in the long run.

Meanwhile, Armed Forces chief Gen. Fidel V. Ramos also ruled out any coup attempt against the President when she leaves for abroad starting this month for a series of state visits.

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Coup (From page 1)

"There will be no coup and we in the military will continue to maintain the country's stability," Ramos said during a weekly television program "Viewpoint" Tuesday night.

Ramos and Defense Minister Juan Ponce Enrile were the principal figures in the February rebellion that toppled the 20-year dictatorial rule of then President Marcos.

In separate interviews, Laurel and Espina said a coup attempt by the military at this time would not be possible.

Reiterating his previous statement that Enrile will not join the President's official US party, Laurel said he has trust on the Aquino Cabinet's most controversial member. He said Enrile "would be around" and ready to face any attempt to overthrow the new government.

In saying that the military will not likely take advantage of Mrs. Aquino's absence to take over the government, Espina quoted a top military official who reportedly said that the communist movement would be the only party that would benefit from such an attempt.

Indicating that any effort to topple the immensely popular Aquino Administration would meet the ire of the people, Espina said the military thinks "we need a government which has the people's support."

He suggested that if a new government rises without the people's consent, the revolutionary movement would take advantage of the establishment's lack of support and draw the people to its side.

Espina said a military coup would only become inevitable when the Aquino Government loses its support from the people and when the insurgency movement becomes strong enough to threaten the civilian administration.

Laurel brushed aside fears that Marcos, now in exile in Hawaii, would try to enter the Philippines from the "backdoor," meaning through Mindanao.

He said the 68-year-old deposed ruler himself realizes that the people do not want him to return. The Vice President likewise expressed certainty that Marcos "will be staying in Honolulu for a while."

In a related development, Malacanang said yesterday Mrs. Aquino would definitely not be meeting with Marcos during her US visit.

The President is scheduled to hold talks with US President Ronald Reagan before meeting with the private sector to seek its help in the country's economic recovery program.

Aquino is scheduled to leave on Aug. 24 for Indonesia for a three-day visit and Singapore on Aug. 26-27 to foster closer ties with other members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).

Her state visits to Indonesia and Singapore will be the President's first foreign trips since she assumed office last February.



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Laurel: I'll fire Cabinet misfits

*During
Aquino's
US visit*

By CHIT ESTELLA and
BUTCH FERNANDEZ
Staffmembers

Vice President Salvador H. Laurel yesterday said he will replace all "undesirable" Cabinet ministers when he assumes the presidency in an acting capacity during President Aquino's visit to the United States next month.

A statement released by his Manila press office also quoted Laurel as saying in Cebu City he would not do anything which the President would reverse on her return "because then it will be useless."

Mr. Laurel was on an overnight visit to the island province to mediate wranglings between Unido leaders over the appointments of key Unido men to important provincial government positions.

In his talk with Unido provincial leaders at the Cebu Sports Country Club, Laurel said that "after the President authorizes me, I will right all the unrightable wrongs that have been committed by this administration."

A senior Palace official, meanwhile, would not say whether Laurel would officially take over the presidency in an acting capacity when the President leaves for a series of state visits starting this month.

The Palace official, who requested anonymity, said since 1946 no vice president has been made acting president whenever the president left for abroad for official functions.

Although the Vice President did not say who the "undesirable" ministers were, his own political organization - the UNIDO - had

(Page 7, please)

Laurel (From page 1)

earlier called for the ouster of Local Governments Minister Aquilino Pimentel, Labor Minister Augusto Sanchez and Executive Secretary Joker Arroyo.

Pimentel was the premier designator of officers-in-charge, a move which has stirred controversy among the Unido members who believe they had been overlooked in the appointments.

In his Cebu statement, released by his Manila office, Laurel said he would "untangle the crisis created by the designation of OICs because it has caused so much controversy."

The issue, he added, has distracted many Filipinos from the more urgent tasks of fighting insurgents and rebuilding the economy.

Laurel's statement strongly echoed those earlier made by Unido Sec. Gen. Rene Espina who said that because of the division caused by the OIC controversy, President Aquino should immediately remove Pimentel from his position.

The ouster of Sanchez was likewise sought by Espina for the labor

minister's alleged failure to deal with labor problems impartially.

At the same time, Arroyo's replacement was demanded because of the executive secretary's alleged attempt to divide the military by proposing the creation of a deputy executive secretary for defense.

These statements, made by Espina while Laurel was still in Manila, were dismissed by the Vice President as opinions held by the Unido secretary-general alone.

Espina, in turn, had said that Laurel was merely keeping his silence because "he did not want to rock the boat."

Local Governments Minister Aquilino Q. Pimentel Jr., meanwhile, welcomed Laurel's offer to "help settle" the OIC-related controversies in a number of hotly-contested areas when President Aquino leaves for a brief US visit in September.

But he said his ministry will "abide by what Mrs. Aquino, as president, will say regarding the matter."

Laurel was reported to have "some concrete ideas" on how to solve the OIC rows in a number of provinces and towns which he reportedly may apply as soon as he becomes acting president.

But Pimentel said he believes Laurel

need not be acting president in Mrs. Aquino's absence.

Even when President Aquino goes out of the country, "she is still the president," said Pimentel.

The person who takes charge of the Office of the President during her absence is normally the presidential executive secretary, also known as "the little president."

According to the MLG minister, the law is clear that only in case of permanent incapacity, death, resignation or impeachment can the vice president assume as "acting president."

In another development, Pimentel warned all local officers-in-charge against "meddling" in any cooperative movement in their localities.

He said he will never countenance any undue interference by OICs in affairs of legitimate cooperative movements.

Pimentel told some 500 members of the Federation of Electric Cooperatives at its 7th Annual Convention at the Manila Garden Hotel that he would take "disciplinary sanctions" against meddling OICs.

Pimentel also disclosed that designated—Tawi-Tawi Gov. Almarin Tillah and outgoing incumbent Gov. Nur Jaafar have "come to terms" on the peaceful turnover of the governorship of the Muslim-dominated islands at the southern tip of Mindanao.

US bases facts and issues C-C must tackle issue and people told the facts

Prepared jointly by:

INTERNATIONAL STUDIES INSTITUTE OF THE PHILIPPINES
UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES LAW COMPLEX
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DIVISION OF SOCIAL SCIENCES

THIRD WORLD MOVEMENT AGAINST THE EXPLOITATION OF WOMEN

(Part I)

Introduction

Clark Air Base and Subic Naval Base have become the subject of considerable discussion in Philippine media. The Filipino people are convinced that the US military presence is indeed useful and important to US interests. They are currently awakening to the dangers to regional security of the US bases as magnets for nuclear holocaust, and reacting to the gross violations of national sovereignty and dignity.

At this point in our history, the writers of the new constitution have the sacred duty of tackling this serious question in the fundamental law of the land. The Filipino people must be informed of the facts and issues related to the US bases in the Philippines in order to make an enlightened stand on the matter.

It is as a contribution to current discussions that we offer the following answers to questions frequently asked.

Are these American bases or Philippine bases?

There is confusion created by those who believe that by a mere change of terms in the 1979 agreement

making American "Philippine" and bases "facilities," Philippine ownership of and sovereignty over the bases are thus assured.

Notwithstanding the appointment of a Filipino base commander who is serving as chief security guard, and the Philippine flag decorated outside the bases, the US maintains on our territory a state within a state which allows the US to engage in activities which is completely beyond Philippine control. The phrase used is "unhampered use of facilities." Ask the Philippine base commander how much he knows about what actually goes on inside the bases, and let's see how much we control them.

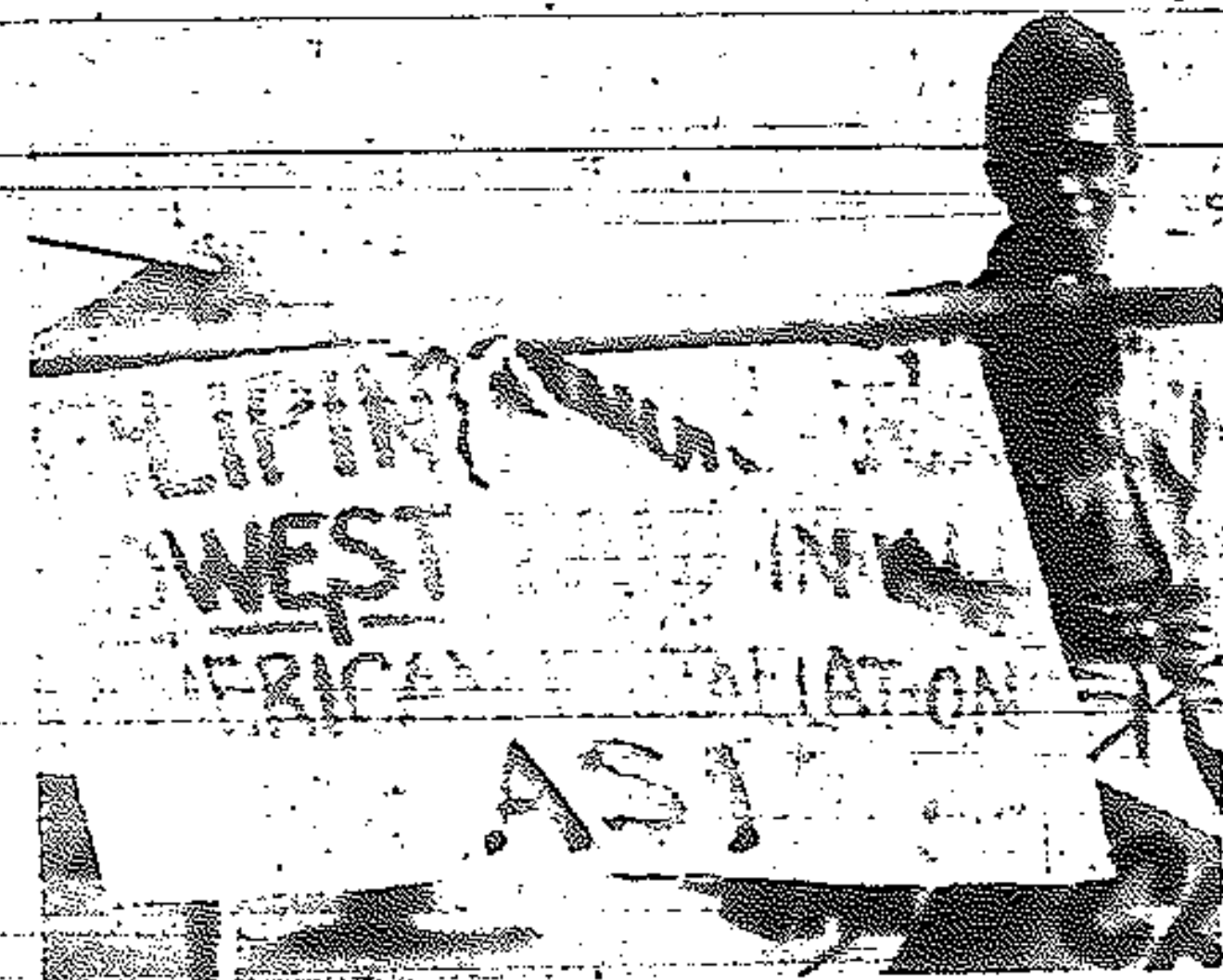
Despite US embassy claims that the US forces occupy only eight per cent of Clark Air Base and 42 per cent of Subic Naval Base, the fact is the total land area about the size of Singapore and Washington, D.C., is no man's but American land as far as the Filipinos are concerned. Philippine development plans may not at all put to use the fields, mountains and seas for the good of the nationals.

Do the American bases create a magnet for nuclear attack?

The US bases in the Philippines, equipped with nuclear-capable weaponry and strategic communications systems, render the Filipino people vulnerable to massive retaliation in the event of nuclear war and thus threaten the very existence of the Filipino people.

Because of the size and strategic importance of the bases, it is likely that five-megaton bombs will be dropped on them. What happens if a bomb of this size explodes in a city (like Manila) of four million inhabitants? More than 1.7 million people will die, and 2.8 million will be injured, maimed or incapacitated (Nuclear War in Europe, Prof. Henry Kendall, Senate Congressional Record, S4926, May 12, 1981).

It is foolhardy to assume that nuclear war is inevitable and therefore it is futile to remove the bases and that we might as well await the nuclear winter. Far from being fatalists, we take one crucial step to prevent such a disaster — no foreign military bases; no nuclear weapons here and elsewhere.



Surly-looking US serviceman glares over a placard-strewn fence at strike-hit Subic Naval Base last March.

US bases facts and issues

Philippines had no choice;

No bases, no independence

(This review of facts and issues relating to the American military installations in the Philippines was prepared jointly by the International Studies Institute of the Philippines (of the University of the Philippines Law Complex), the UP Manila College of Arts and Sciences (Division of Social Sciences), and the Third World Movement Against the Exploitation of Women. The authors hope this will enlighten the Filipino nation, especially the commissioners of the Constitutional Commission-- Editor.)

(Second of a series)

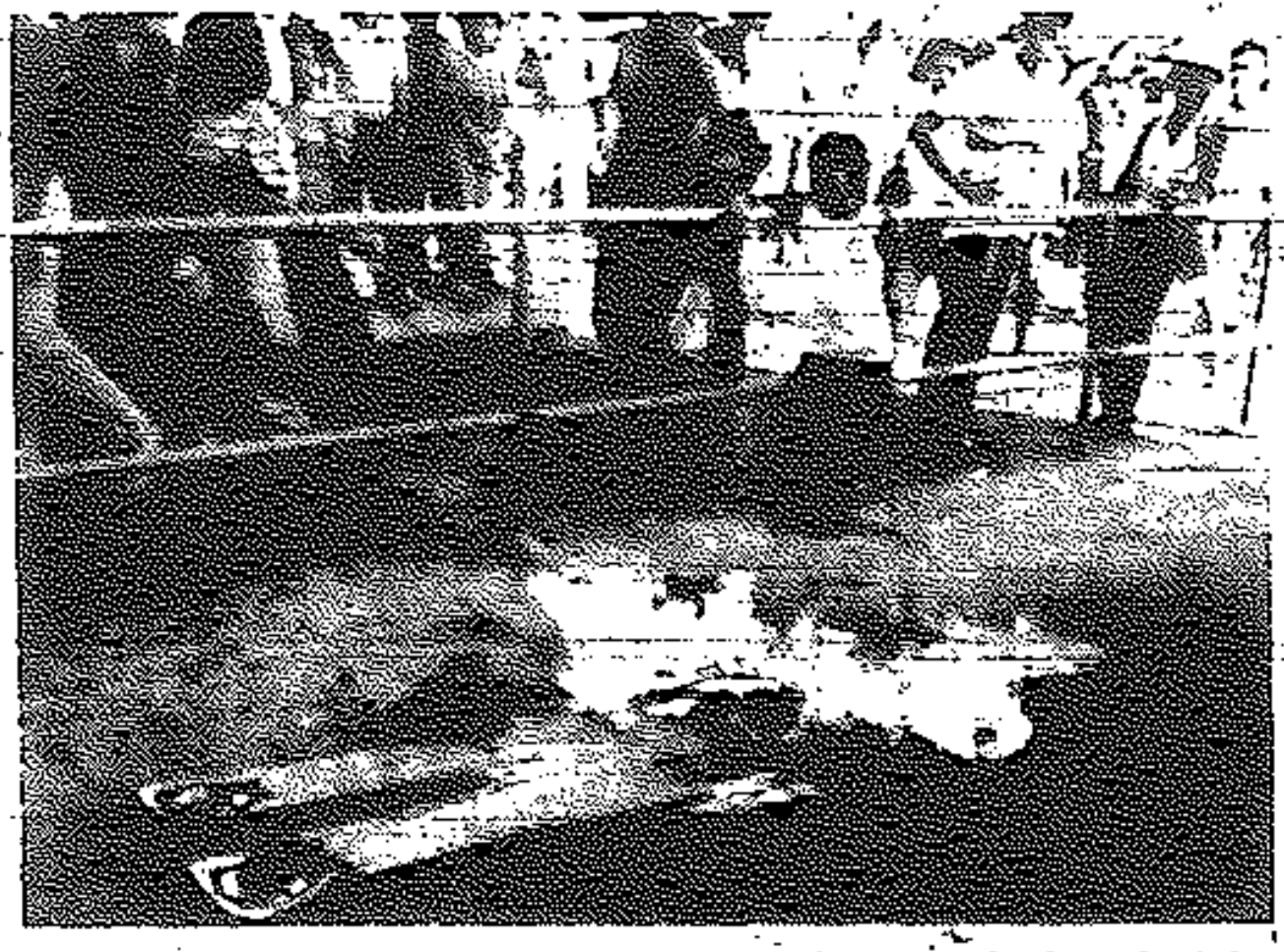
Is there diminution of sovereignty to have bases in the Philippines when other states also have bases?

To argue that the presence of US bases in both industrialized countries like the United Kingdom, the Federal Republic of Germany, and developing states like Cuba, Greece and Turkey, is an indication that such is not a diminution of sovereignty, fails to make several distinctions.

For an independent state to allow another state to maintain military bases in its territory is, without argument, a diminution of the host state's sovereignty. However, such infringement is one which the host state has consented to, and it is maintained that the act of an independent state in relinquishing certain rights in its territory is an exercise of its sovereignty. Arguably, therefore, there is a legal justification for the presence of bases in other states.

But, did the Philippines give its consent to the establishment of these bases here?

The US is an erstwhile colonial master. When the Tare-Hawes-Cutting Law was passed by the US Congress as the Philippine Independence Act, it was rejected by the Philippine Legislature, because it allowed the US president to designate certain areas of



Effigy of the commanding officer of the Subic Naval Base in Olongapo City is burned at the gate by base workers for his alleged anti-Filipino attitude.

the Philippines as US military bases, before the Philippines acquires independence.

Thus, the Tydings-McDuffie Law was passed, which provided only for "naval reservations and fueling stations," and subject furthermore to negotiations between the presidents of the two governments, two years after independence. However, the outbreak of World War II caused a shift in US policy, and by virtue of Joint Resolution No. 93 of the US Congress, the US president was authorized to negotiate with the president of the Commonwealth of the Republic of the Philippines, to withhold, acquire or retain bases in addition to the naval reservations and fueling stations already reserved in the Tydings-McDuffie Law.

In fact, before any such negotiations could result in a treaty or agreement, President Truman issued the Proclamation of Philippine Independence on July 4, 1946, subject to the reservations made in "US statutes." Clearly therefore, US military installations in the Philippines are here not because we agreed, but because they were imposed by the colonizer as a reservation upon the grant of independence. The Philippines had no choice.

Although the joint resolution spoke of negotiations between the presidents of both governments as regards the bases, the Philippines could not validly consent at that time, as it was merely a commonwealth, subject to US sovereignty, and thus without capacity to enter into an international agreement. In the light of all these, the 1947 Agreement appears as the formalization of a *fait accompli*.

Are the terms of the US bases agreements with other states the same as with the Philippines?

When making comparisons between states, it is not sufficient to merely point to the fact that there too are bases within their territory. The nature of the bases and the conditions of their use must likewise be examined.

For Filipinos, a "foreign base" conjures the spectre of extraterritoriality. It brings forth the image of a foreign enclave carved out of the national territory; a little America, where Filipinos, whether civilians or military, are afforded minimal access, where violations of Philippine law are not punishable by Philippine courts, where the dollar is the monetary denomination and where Philippine revenue, customs and immigration authorities have no jurisdiction.

An examination of the agreements of other states governing US bases in their territory reveals a different picture. For the European states, including Turkey, the bases must be viewed in the context of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. Although they are used by the US, in compliance with their obligation to cooperate for mutual defense, the bases are not "US bases" but remain Spanish, Turkish, Greek, etc., bases.

(To be continued)

US bases facts and issues

Rent or aid? Whichever, other host states get more

(This review of facts and issues relating to the American military installations in the Philippines was prepared jointly by the International Studies Institute of the Philippines (of the University of the Philippines Law Complex), the UP Manila College of Arts and

Sciences (Division of Social Sciences), and the Third World Movement Against the Exploitation of Women. The authors hope this will enlighten the Filipino nation, especially the commissioners of the Constitutional Commission-- Editor.)

(Part III)

The 1976 Spanish Treaty grants Spain a greater degree of control over the areas and over the strength-levels or personnel. The US is to furnish an inventory of facilities within each Spanish military base or connected with it, such as lands, buildings, installations, and other major permanent items, indicating the purpose for which they are used. The parties shall also maintain a list containing the identification and general strength levels of all the US military units stationed in Spain for the use and maintenance of those facilities.

Moreover, the time and manner of utilization of the facilities in the event of external threat or attack against the security of the West, is to be subject to consultation between the countries and the decision shall be reached by mutual agreement.

In Turkey, the US is merely allowed "to participate in the defense measures to be carried out in the installations," which remain Turkish Armed Forces installations. The installations shall be jointly manned by US and Turkish personnel, the latter to constitute 50 per cent of the total strength required for each installation. Periodic reports are to be furnished to the Turkish government as to the US levels of strength. Greece substantially has the same provisions.

Perhaps realizing the virtual surrender of sovereignty effected by the 1947 Military Bases Agreement, the Philippine government demanded in 1976 that the bases be denominated "Philippine Military Bases" over which the Philippine flag flies and under the direction of a Philippine base commander. However, beyond these cosmetic measures, the bases remain essentially US-controlled pursuant to the US position that provisions similar to those in treaties with NATO countries will be prejudiced to the free and unhampered use of the facilities in the Philippines.

Are there protests against US bases in other countries?

We know for a fact that there have been peace marches, pickets and protests all over the world. Women's groups in particular have been outstanding in the zeal, courage and perseverance manifested in their struggle for peace. We have the inspiring examples of the women of Greenham Common, U.K., West Germany, Norway, Japan, the Pacific and other regions. They certainly have made their cry heard loud and strong: No missiles, no nuclear weapons, no foreign military bases!

Is the money paid to the Philippines aid or rent?

The US can offer nothing more than the assurance that its executive branch will exert its "best efforts" to obtain from the US Congress, appropriations for security assistance to the Philippines. This is in return for the "rent-free" use of military bases, wherein the US has the full exercise of right, powers and authority, as well as the right to employ all public utilities, roads and highways, lakes, rivers and streams at par with the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

For the period 1979 to 1984, this amounted to \$500 million broken down as \$50 million in military assistance in foreign military sales credit and \$200 million in security support assistance. For the period 1985 to 1989, these "best efforts" were directed at securing \$900 million broken down as follows: \$475 million in grant economic support funds, \$300 million in foreign military sales credit and \$125 million in grant military assistance.

The claim that the US does not pay rent for bases which are utilized for mutual defense is belied by its 1903 treaty with Cuba. The US agreed to pay rent for the use of coaling and naval stations, although these were allegedly established to enable the US to maintain the independence of Cuba and to protect the Cuban people.

Are other host states receiving more grants or aid from the US?

An even more glaring contrast may be seen in its 1976 treaty with Spain wherein a total amount of \$1.22 billion over a period of five years is granted. This amount is broken down as follows:

Grants: Defense articles, \$75 million; military training, \$10 million; scientific and technical program, \$23 million; educational and cultural cooperation, \$12 million; and US contribution to aircraft control and warning network, \$50 million. Total: \$170 million.

Credits and loan guarantees: Repayment guarantees on foreign military sales loans, \$600 million; and expected Fx-Im Bank credits/guarantees, \$450 million. Total: \$1,050 million.

In addition, Spain may acquire, on favorable terms, war vessels and aircraft by sale, lease and exchange. In reporting this treaty to the floor, the Senate Foreign Relations Committee noted that the US would be committing itself in advance to the payment of these amounts and a failure of Congress to appropriate these amounts would constitute a violation of its treaty.

(To be continued)