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# LIBERATION

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## BONIFACIO AND THE NEW FILIPINO SUBVERSIVES



People's Liberation Artists (PLA '72)

The living historic figure of Andres Bonifacio, founder of the Katipunan and great leader of the Filipino masses, generates a special urgency for today's continuing struggle for genuine national freedom and democracy.

It was Andres Bonifacio and the Katipunan who correctly translated into concrete revolutionary action the aspirations of the oppressed masses for national liberation from foreign oppression and tyrannical rule.

It was Andres Bonifacio and the Katipunan who provided the decisive leadership demanded by a revolutionary mass movement,

a leadership unmarked by neither vacillation nor opportunism.

For these reasons, Bonifacio and the historic struggle of the Filipino masses, endure today as a living inspiration and critical lesson for all.

To the patriot and revolutionary of today, Bonifacio is the prototype of the leader who selflessly devotes his life to the struggle of the oppressed masses for liberation from foreign oppression and local tyranny.

To the foreign oppressors and native tyrants of today, Bonifacio is the prototype

of the subversive who must be ruthlessly weeded out lest his dangerous ideas and actions galvanize the exploited masses into concerted political action against the tyrannical regime.

Like Bonifacio and the Filipino masses who were branded as subversives and ruthlessly hunted down by the Spanish oppressors, the New Filipino of today must of necessity be a subversive.

He can not remain indifferent to the systematic plunder of his national patrimony by American capital and other foreign corporations, the singular cause of the acute poverty and unending impoverishment of his people and millions of people all over Asia, Africa, and Latin America.

He can not be duped by the loud protestations of the dictator and tyrant Marcos that martial law is aimed at restoring "peace and order" precisely because it is this very same regime which has inaugurated the most brutal policy of repression and terror against the suffering peasants, workers and students who dared subvert this exploitative system.

He refuses to be taken in by the massive state propaganda on land reform knowing fully well this regime's deeply-entrenched anti-tenant and pro-landlord policies together with the fact that Marcos himself is a big landlord and landgrabber.

He dismisses the dictator's bombast about broadening the "middle class" conscious of the fact that the worsening eco-

nomie crisis will further polarize the classes, broadening instead the ranks of the dispossessed, the poor, the starving, and the unemployed.

He rejects the crass opportunism of the new ilustrados in the Constitutional Convention who have shamelessly bartered away the people's trust thru their legalization of the US-Marcos dictatorship.

The New Filipino of today walks the land undaunted and defiant.

He is the disciplined worker, steeled by years of hard struggle against exploitative foreign capital; conscious of the yellow trade unionism that has emasculated his revolutionary zeal; cognizant of the leading role of his class in the decisive struggle for genuine national freedom and democracy.

He is the disciplined peasant, tenant and farm worker. Uncompromising enemy of the big landlord class and prime mover of the agrarian revolution.

He is the disciplined student-youth and intellectual. Dedicated propagandists and articulators of the people's democratic revolution.

He is the disciplined nationalist businessman. Firm proponent of genuine national economic development and industrialization.

They are the Bonifacios of today. The New Filipino Subversives.●

## **AFP Whipped In Sorsogon, Ilocos Sur, Quirino And Ifugao**

Reports continue to pour into Manila on the victories posted by the people's anti-fascist forces.

Among the sites of these victories were Bulan in Sorsogon, Diffun in the new province of Quirino, Mayaoyao in Ifugao, and Cabugao in Ilocos Sur.

Bulan residents who have travelled to Manila have reported that in an ambush sprung by the New People's Army early this month, 18 members of the reactionary AFP were slain. The NPA lost one man.

What the Marcos media reported was the single casualty of the NPA. The dictatorship conveniently omitted any mention of the AFP losses.

In Diffun, the NPA wiped out an AFP patrol of 15 men. The NPA guerrillas also captured all their arms, thus enlarging the arsenal of the people's liberation forces.

In Mayaoyao, the masses killed three soldiers. When AFP reinforcements arrived a couple of days later, the people inflicted more casualties on the puppet troops.

It was a somewhat different story in Cabugao.

The report said that the oppressed masses in a barrio of that town got so fed up with the abuses of a group of AFP soldiers that they decided to do something about it.

Pretending to befriend the soldiers, the barrio folk plied them with bottle upon bottle of liquor.

Before the evening was over, the soldiers were dead-drunk and very dead as well, as the aroused masses secured justice with their bolos.

These reports came on the heels of the successful raid on military installations in Marawi City by the anti-fascist forces in Mindanao.●



## 'PINOYS' IN U.S. WAGE ANTI-MARCOS STRUGGLE

Tens of thousands of Filipinos in the United States have joined their countrymen at home in waging resolute struggle against the US-Marcos dictatorship.

This was learned by LIBERATION through reports from the United States' West Coast and Hawaii which had been getting through the communication barrier set up by censors of the military regime.

These reports said the overseas Filipinos' struggle has taken on several forms, including mass actions, the organization of letter-writing brigades, the publication of manifestos in the bigger American newspapers, and monetary remittances to support the anti-fascist forces in the homefront.

One report said Filipinos in California and freedom-loving Americans distributed handbills, marched and then picketed the Philippine Consulate in San Francisco on what they billed as a "National Day of Protest" last October 6.

Under the banner of the "National Committee for the Restoration of Civil Liberties in the Philippines" with chapters throughout the United States, the Filipinos and their American allies united on these four principles:

- "1. Oppose martial law.
- "2. Demand the restoration of civil liberties.
- "3. Demand freedom for those imprisoned for political reasons.
- "4. Demand that the US government abandon its support of the Marcos regime."

Protest has also been organized in Hawaii by Filipinos banded together under the "Amnesty Committee of Filipinos for Freedom" and the "Committee of Concerned Filipinos", both based in Honolulu.

In a manifesto distributed throughout

Hawaii, the ACCFF called attention to the Marcos regime's reign of terror, adding:

"We are anxious over the fate of all (the) political prisoners and we fear the outcome of any military trial for them. It is likely that the military tribunals will be a mockery of justice. If being a communist is a crime and 'communist' is defined as being critical, then their guilt will automatically follow. It should be remembered that the critics of the Marcos regime who are now in jail were asking for the same reforms that Marcos now claims he will accomplish under martial law.

"We appeal to all men of goodwill to help seek the release of the political prisoners whose only 'crime' was to criticize Marcos..."

The anti-fascist Filipinos and their American allies then set out writing individual protest letters to American public officials and to such groups as Amnesty International in London, International Press Institute in Switzerland, and the Foreign Press Association, Sigma Delta Chi (Professional Journalistic Society) and the Overseas Press Club of America, in the United States.

The CCF, on the other hand, took out a full-page advertisement in the Honolulu Star Bulletin exposing the US-Marcos regime's shut-down of mass media, the ban on demonstrations and other forms of assembly, and the mass arrests and arbitrary detentions, among other anti-democratic measures of the Marcos rule.

In the advertisement, the CCF added:

"We, concerned Filipinos in Hawaii, are shocked by this naked and brutal display of power which reduced the Philippines into a ... dictatorship backed up by military force. Instead of creating a 'new society', martial law has brought about a police state bent on suppressing human liberties.

Instead of saving democracy, it is killing it by suppressing civil liberties and democratic institutions, stifling political opposition, and instilling fear and terror in the lives of a...people who are now made to pay for the crimes of the present regime.

"The reported Communist strength of 1,200 armed men by no means constitutes a national threat or conspiracy but it has been made the primary reason for the imposition of martial law to deceive the people and draw their attention away from the real reasons arising from the excesses and corruption of the current regime."

The Committee of Concerned Filipinos then appealed to all Filipinos in the United States and to the American public "not to be misled by glowing reports from some quarters regarding the beneficial effects of martial law".

"The news that we get here is censored and calculated to gain support from outside the Philippines by pointing out favorable measures like lowering the price of meat and electricity while playing down the violence, both emotional and physical, brought about by numerous arrests of alleged Commu-

nist conspirators and critics of the regime," it added.

The CCF concluded by saying:

"We urge our fellow Filipinos (in the United States and elsewhere abroad) to join in this protest against a serious threat to our existence ... We ask them and others to unite with us in seeking the release of political prisoners whose only crime was to criticize the Marcos regime.

"We believe that Marcos' conspiracy theory is bankrupt and that there is no justification for martial law which marks the death of democracy in the Philippines. We ... appeal to all freedom-loving peoples of the world to press for the earliest restoration of civil liberties and constitutional rights to Filipinos and the end of oppression in the Philippines."

We can see from the foregoing that the overseas Filipinos have not been fooled one bit by the Marcos propaganda machine, and have in fact extended their hands across the seas to do their share in bringing about an end to the dictatorship.●

## THE NON-CULTURE OF THE 'NEW SOCIETY'

Non-culture and proclamation 1081 reared their atavistic heads at precisely the same moment on September 23rd. On the government band, Voice of the Philippines, a disc jockey played Christmas carols, while on Channel 9, Popeye and Woody Woodpecker took over as decoys after an announcer with an Ateneo accent admonished the future inhabitants of the New Society to "remain calm."

"Keep tuned to this station. In a few moments the President will make an address to the nation." This was about noon.

"Woo-hoo-who-who-hew-who!" sired Woody gleefully.

"Blast me buttons!" cursed Popeye. At this same moment a Con-Con delegate, with the proper encouragement of seven carloads of Metrocom, all bristling with armalites, was being "invited" to answer a few questions at Camp Crame.

About three o'clock that same afternoon, the Christmas carols still tinkling away joyfully, Ateneo accent No. 2 informed the credulous citizenry who had been successfully kept off the streets and in front of their TV sets -- the better to arrest you, my dear -- to tune back in one hour for the President's "important message". About the same time the father of one of those on the arrest list was hauled off to the stockade amid protests that he was not his son. It didn't work.

This cartoon festival went on for seven consecutive hours; and to those of us who already know what the "message" was because we had barely eluded the storm troopers by a matter of minutes, and in our pajamas at that, there was something salacious about this sort of thing: outright violence accompanied by pop art and gimmickry: Woody screeching his lungs out while mayhem and murder, Disney-style, was lapped up with guffaws and titters as the clock ticked on, and the stockade bulged with victims.

About five o'clock that afternoon, seven carloads of ferocious looking state troopers surrounded the wrong house in their haste and converged on a fragile, old lady on the UP campus, noted for the delicadeza with which she had handled her classes in social orientation for over forty years. They allowed her with untypical and dubious mercy to return to her TV set to discover that the important announcement would be "delayed for an hour."

At seven thirty, after seven hours of stalling, so that the maximum number of victims could be arrested unawares, after first being softened up by the bludgeoning of the pop-art heroes from the coca-cola belt, the Message was anti-climactic.

Over one thousand were now behind barbed

wire and every press in the country was padlocked.

"Blast me buttons!"

That first day was a schizoid prevue of the non-culture to come. For several weeks we choked over our morning coffee amid the celluloid detonation of deadly skirmishes, the brutal realities of the cartoon world, at least, were still permissible.

When the noise stopped, another kind of noise began. It was the debut of The Voice.

"Whereash, the Mash Meajjuh huv been ushzed in the conspирashy against the guv-ament and huv takun paat in that conspирashy either by direct, willful partishipashun, or by indirectly giving aid and comfut to the forces of insuggenshy..." We craned our necks for a glimpse of the fami-



liar six hundred peso Pierre Cardin lapel, and strained for a whit of that atrocious British accent to relieve the monotony. But The Voice only mumbled on, seldom lifting his jaw more than two inches above his copy except to glower at us for a moment and read on.

After that we were switched back to the cartoons.

But within three weeks the long awaited renaissance had begun: three radio stations now beguiled you as one still choked over morning coffee. The Voice had mercifully turned over his grimy copy to the few stalwarts who were still out of the stockade and could at least articulate.

Only those stations deemed pure enough for the New Society were operating. At last one could choose between morning at the San Lazaro Track and the non-culture of bookie joints, or soar out of this mundane world through the ministrations of (not Marcos) Jesus-Is-The-Answer from a religious sect which boasts of never having had a single activist in its ranks.

But the bonus package came straight from

the Byroade Mafia on Roxas Boulevard. It was Uncle Bob and the entire Channel 7 production staff bleating in gratitude over Proclamation 1081.

"I feel so happy this morning, by golly! Umph-deedee-umph-deedee-umph." In his best George Wallace accent, he continued, "Now that Justice has been restored. I tell you! By golly, I feel so good! There hasn't

been a single crime in the last 24 hours!" Except as Uncle Bob forgot to comment -- the kind of anti-People's crime that Channel 7 and the Stewart Empire has specialized in for a number of years, with its uninvestigated foreign monopoly capital and its connection with counter-insurgency.

Shortly, Imelda was snipping ribbons happily, opening art exhibitions in which all the known painters were conspicuous by their absence, and endorsing "clean" apolitical sportsfests.

Her finest hour came during the packed performance of Bagong Anyo '72 at Camp Aguinaldo, with Marcos and Henry Byroade beside her, applauding madly. On the other side of the street, another grandstand was mobbed with people trying to get permission to leave the country.

Within shouting distance was an equally packed gymnasium which has to date confined 2,800 political prisoners, who at that moment were no doubt having their own version of Bagong Anyo '72.

By late October our liberation from the

"sick" culture of the past was complete. Mayor Yabut had announced a comic book revival for use in the classrooms and the Cultural Center had announced Poetry In Action, presided over by that dean of non-culture, Rolando Carbonell, of yoga sessions for embittered housewives and Beyond Forgetting, a mild plagiarism of Kahlil Gibran.

Somewhere at this point Los Indios Bravos was bravely raided, psychic consciousness not being as safe as it used to be -- potheads with dog-eared copies of Balthazar rounded up with gusto.

Vaudeville was on the upswing, with veteran Lou Salvador predicting that the third golden age of vaudeville would come shortly.

There were other developments too. All the first-rate painters were in hiding, or had fled the country after the suspension of the privilege of the Writ of Habeas Corpus a year ago. All people's writers were either imprisoned or had joined the underground anti-fascist forces. All of the country's top drama directors were on the arrest list and had fled, except one Malacanang favorite. The roster of non-culture was complete.

Now in November, the dictatorship's fare of bread and circuses continues with a vengeance: this week it is Jesus Christ Superstar, the Polynesian Dance Center concert,

a pop concert at Nayong Pilipino, a Hawaiian and Tahitian dance troupe, and a Japanese-inspired fashion show at the Plaza, aimed at promoting tourism. Next it may be an Egyptian belly dancer.

The masses could hardly care less for the decadent and imported cultural fare of their military rulers; unless the production costs of each performance could be converted into an equivalent supply of rice per household. Then the millions of unemployed created by proclamation 1081 alone, might be persuaded to line up for the New Society's non-culture.

But Culture has always excluded the masses, except as peering bystanders who are given the privilege of ogling at the senora's gown or her diamond clips from a safe distance in the driveway of the Cultural Center.

More to their taste are double-edged predictions like that of Lou Salvador, whose nostalgia for the anti-military protest shows of the resistance movement of World War II pushed him to near-sedition, when he said recently, "By December, we'll have stage shows even bigger than those presented during the Japanese Occupation."

More sandbags and barbed wire. More victims. More genuine People's playwrights and more denouements with explosions.

But not at the Forum Theater. "Blast me buttons!" ●

## Mass Lay-Offs Continue; Displaced Media Workers Unite

In a recent address to Filipino businessmen in Malacanang, the dictator Marcos asked them to trust blindly in his military regime and to do away with what he called "destructive speculation".

But the businessmen, caught up in the confusing welter of presidential decrees, general orders and letters of instruction, have continued to slow down or phase out their operations.

This, in turn, has worked hardships on the working class which, already exploited and oppressed previously, now has to contend with diminished earnings and outright unemployment.

The hardships that have cropped up as a result of martial law were partly confirmed by the first monthly report submitted by Labor Secretary Blas Ople and Labor Undersecretary Amado Inciong, chairman of the National Labor Relations Commission.

They said that during the first month of martial law, the NLR acted on 318 applications for permits to shut down or dismiss

or terminate the services of employees. Of these, 285 were granted, they said.

A survey in the Greater Manila alone shows that on account of the dictator's heavy hand, some of the bigger corporations have cut down on their operations, thus necessitating the lay-off of personnel, while others have taken advantage of martial law to intensify the exploitation of their workers.

Among the firms affected were:

1. Avellana Advertising Company -- mass lay-off, reduction in wages.
2. DMG, Inc. -- mass lay-off, reduction in wages.
3. Manila Electric Company (Meralco) -- mass lay-off, reduction in wages.
4. Central Textile Company -- workers on daily basis work only two days a week, rotation.
5. Pangasinan Transportation Company

(Pantranco) -- 2,000 workers laid off.

6. Mantrade -- 60 workers laid off.

7. Delta Motors -- 200 workers laid off.

8. Philippine National Railways (PNR) -- 1,000 workers laid off.

9. Paramount Plastics Corporation --- 100 workers dismissed.

10. Fortune Cigarettes -- 1,400 workers laid off.

11. San Miguel Brewery -- night differential removed, working hours increased from 8 to 12, working shifts reduced from 3 to 2.

12. Squibman -- working hours increased, hospitalization privileges removed, 350 workers affected.

13. Central Steel -- operations stopped completely.

14. Kings Sports Parts -- union leaders dismissed.

15. Pacific Textile Mills -- 8 progressive workers kidnapped.

16. PT&T -- 50 workers laid off.

17. General Electric -- 100 workers dismissed.

18. Ford Philippines -- management interfering in union affairs.

These problems brought about by the deepening economic crisis and the big capitalists' desire to oppress their workers some more found partial confirmation in a

recent statement made on radio by Blas Opale, labor secretary of the dictatorship.

"Complaints have been swamping my office from all over", he told an interviewer.

Meanwhile, the workers in mass media establishments closed down by the dictator have formed themselves into the "Kilusan ng mga Manggagawa sa Imprenta" and have aligned themselves with the rest of the masses of the people in the anti-fascist movement.

The membership of the "Kilusan" come from among the ranks of linotypists, compositors and other workers in the mechanical departments, editors and reporters, radio and television newsmen and announcers, electronics technicians, office staff and others who were summarily deprived of their employment when the dictator cracked down on mass media.

Among the leadership and membership of the new workers' anti-fascist alliance are workers and employees of the Times chain of publications, ABS-CBN, Philippines Free Press, Graphic, Nation, Channel 5, Asia-Philippines Leader, Philippines Herald, and Manila Chronicle.

It will be recalled that among the media workers who were first to suffer under the anti-democratic acts and measures of the dictatorship was Roberto Ordonez, president of the Herald Publications Inc. Employees Union which was on strike at the time martial law was declared.

Ordonez, who had been outspoken against the US imperialist stooges in the Philippines Herald management, was arrested along with other journalists and remains at the Camp Crame detention station to this day. ●



## Inside Story Of Marawi Raid

Now it can be told.

A big mass following and a brilliant utilization of the tactics of surprise enabled the Mindanao freedom fighters to get close to Camp Amai Pacpac in Marawi City and inflict severe casualties upon the reactionary AFP forces stationed there.

A Marawi City resident told LIBERATION that the raid by the anti-fascist forces was the product of a sustained study of the movements of the mercenary troops.

For instance, they observed that the soldiers usually held flag ceremony at 7 o'clock every morning.

On the eve of the assault, the revolutionary fighters who were well integrated with the populace moved machineguns to strategic points near the camps, including rooftops.

They also were able to deploy around the camp without the AFP troops detecting them, thanks to the assistance given by the local population.

At the appointed time, the soldiers massed for the flag ceremony.

In a second, heavy gunfire issued from different directions, catching the soldiers flat-footed and routing them.

Before AFP reinforcements could arrive from Iligan City and Cagayan de Oro City, the freedom fighters had already withdrawn to their rural sanctuaries.

An earlier report to LIBERATION had said the daring raid and subsequent battles in Mindanao resulted in heavy losses for the AFP. Its casualty list included 519 dead and 236 wounded.

We may expect the AFP casualties in Marawi to rise in the coming days.

Militant residents of that city have not been daunted by the reinforcements, including tanks, arriving from Iligan City and Cagayan City.

To prove that they are very much around, partisans in Marawi have scrawled on a wall in that city the declaration: "MARTIAL LAW ENDS HERE".●

## ISABELA BARRIO FOLK FORCED OUT OF HOMES BY P.C.

By HENRY KAMM

Special to The New York Times

CAUAYAN, The Philippines, Oct. 19 -- The Philippine armed forces are uprooting thousands of villagers in a region through which small bands of guerrillas roam and moving the refugees to towns and villages securely in government control.

Brig. Gen. Tranquilino F. Paranis, ... said he hoped to empty 100 to 120 villages of their inhabitants by the end of the month. He said the move would affect 3,000 families -- 20,000 people -- but provincial officials in Isabela put the number higher. They said they expected there would be closer to 50,000 refugees.

General Paranis said he hoped to isolate the rebels of the so-called New People's Army from the population.... "Everybody who remains in the area is an N.P.A.," he said in an interview at his headquarters in Echague. "I can swoop upon them and pound them."

A 24-hour tour in the province ... indicated no signs of coordination of planning to ease the lot of the refugees or those who were obliged to accommodate them.

"They have buildings available in the towns," General Paranis said when asked where those who had no relatives to put them up were being sheltered.

### 20 Families in Stable

"About 20 of my families are living in a stable here," said Alejo Reyes, barrio captain ... of Disimary, 11 miles from this town.

Mr. Reyes said that Gov. Faustino N. Dy ordered the more than 600 inhabitants of the barrio to leave about a month ago .... The villagers, he said, were scattered among several towns and villages.

"They are still eating three meals a day," Mr. Reyes said. "but soon it will be two and then maybe one."

### Crops Are Also Lost

The villagers were displaced before they could harvest their rice. Those who could manage to hire a truck took their furniture. Others lost that as well as their houses and crops.

Since barrio farmers have little cash, the refugees are selling their cattle and pigs to buy food. Prices have not been so low in years as a result of the glut on the market.

"I could have bought three carabaos for \$1,000," said a prosperous woman in the town of Reina Mercedes, regretting she had

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not had the ready cash. The normal price for a carabao is about ₱1,000 each.

... Governor Dy called the mass evacuation "a matter of a little inconvenience" that would be taken care of by Mr. Marcos's land reform program. The displaced persons, he said, would be given farmlands that are now uncultivated.

#### 60-Day Drive Planned

General Paranis... said he would require only 60 days to "sanitize" the mountains of Isabela in a "big scale military operation" that he said would begin as soon as the population had been removed....

The general conceded that his forecast

might be a bit optimistic. He said also he realized that the evacuation might permit the rebels to withdraw to another area to avoid a Government attack but added that just to chase them to another province would be a success.

The general said that he had begun the evacuation two weeks before the President declared martial law but that martial law had been a great help in persuading local officials to cooperate.

"The local officials think something will come to them if they are remiss," General Paranis said with a twinkle. ●

Far away places with enchanting names



SOME OF THE FAR AWAY PLACES WITH CHARMING NAMES THAT TOURISTS SHOULD VISIT:

#### CLARK FIELD

staging area for counterinsurgency and bombing missions to Vietnam to kill children.

#### MALACAÑANG PALACE

garrison residence of the richest Couple in Asia

#### PLAZA MIRANDA

where 13 were killed during rallies and hundreds were wounded in two major massacres in 1971.

#### CAMP CRAME

where thousands of the nation's top intellectuals, journalists, publishers, student activists, trade unionists, peasant leaders, political oppositionists and critics of the President are incarcerated.

 **Philippine Airlines**

For schedules and other information, see your Travel Agent or call P.A.L. (dialing 355) Manila Office. Telephone: SA 47 05, 58 47 83 and 48 48 75



The military authorities have white-washed the front of Vinsons Hall in U.P. bearing the slogan, "SERVE THE PEOPLE".

Obviously, they don't want to be reminded of the things they hate to do.

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The curfew in Jolo begins at 10:00P.M. That is, for the AFP troops. At this hour, these uniformed mercenaries start trooping back to their camp, while the citizens continue to linger outside their homes.

The troopers are in mortal fear of the masses because the latter have refused to surrender their arms and are bent on keeping them, and also killing with them.

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The puny lapdog Juan C. Tuvera is reportedly in hot water for allowing the headline, "Marawi Retaken" to be published in the Daily Suppress and implying that the city was ever taken by the Marawi freedom fighters.

Of course, there is room for skepticism in the headline. It seems that Marawi City has never been really "retaken" by the puppet AFP troops.

\*\*\*

On the first night of Bagong Anyo '72, the ladies of the AFP brass were consternated to find the braggart First Lady in all her fine jewelry.

"If that is simple dressing, what then is overdressing?", they wondered.

Anyway, the jewels would be the only nice things you can say about the avaricious madame, had she paid for them.

\*\*\*

We have just had a sample of military justice, Marcos style.

Roger "Bomba" Arienda was tried by a military tribunal one day and convicted the next, leaving no doubt that his guilt and the sentence had been predetermined.

Reminds us of that sheriff in the American Old West who "assured" an arrested felon in these words: "Don't worry. We'll give you a fair trial before we hang you."

\*\*\*

To conceal the fact that the AFP is being decimated at every turn by the people's liberation forces, it has maintained its casualties in the payroll.

For the moment, wages of dead troopers

are being sent to their families, while they are on "field duty". And of course, these wages can also be a veritable gold mine for officers, especially disbursing officers.

\*\*\*

"Point-Blank" has received a report that Celso Al. Carunungan, author of the novel "Satanas sa Lupa", is among the writers and journalists detained at Camp Crame.

The poor fellow's only fault is that he wrote about the many hypocrisies and the grand larcenies inflicted upon the Filipino people by a certain Couple.

In his detention cell, Carunungan is now certain that he has in fact tangled with "Satanas" and his wife.

\*\*\*

The press is down and out, courtesy of the dictator, and he is still out there kicking it around.

During his recent speech in Malacanang before a group of businessmen, he said the mass media were "back to their old habits".

Since the newspapers allowed to operate either belong to him or are under the tight control of his censors, perhaps the dictator should stop looking around for scapegoats and bang his head against the wall once in a while.

\*\*\*

If you hardly see the PAF jets flying about, there's a good reason for it.

It seems the dictator has grounded all the jet fighters lest the members of the Corpus-Tagamolila Movement in the PAF get it in their minds to give Malacanang a dose of the "medicine" that the air force has been giving the barrio folk of Isabela.

\*\*\*

Next time the Marcos propaganda sheets boast about the alleged proficiency of the AFP's "sophisticated" firearms detection apparatus, take it with a grain of salt.

Why, they couldn't even detect the arms cache that a close kin of Pasay Mayor Pablo Cuneta has buried in his yard at San Lorenzo Village!

\*\*\*

Officials of the Asian Development Bank who called on Malacanang recently are still talking about the thick pancake make-up that the dictator has been putting on to conceal his haggard look.

What we hear is that he has difficulty getting to sleep at night.

Is his conscience -- if he has one -- finally bothering him? ●