

# LIBERATION

VOLUME 1 NO. 25

JULY 14, 1973

## CABINET REVAMPI

(Page 3)



## Marcos' Muslim negotiator bares AFP, 'Ilaga' atrocities

Accounts of blood-curdling atrocities in Mindanao by "Ilagas" disguised as AFP barrio self-defense units (BSDUs) have provoked a revolt even among the Muslim "peace negotiators" of the US-Marcos dictatorship.

The latest to raise his voice in protest was Hadji Jainudin Nuño of the Mindanao Development Authority, one of those upon whom the dictator Marcos had depended to contact Muslim "insurgents" in Zamboanga and Basilan.

In a well-documented report to Malacañang dated June 9, 1973, a copy of which reached the LIBERATION desk, Nuño warned that the Muslim Revolutionary Forces would gain adherents faster unless the following measures were undertaken immediately:

1. The organization of BSDUs should be placed under the direct responsibility of

local civil authorities instead of the military.

2. Recruitment of fanatically anti-Muslim "Ilagas" for service in the BSDUs be stopped.

Nuño protested that in many of their depredations, the "Ilagas" had the protection and even the encouragement of the military. In fact, he said, in the few instances that members of "Ilaga" killer squads were apprehended, they were invariably released after routine questioning.

In this connection, he told the dictator that he and former Zamboanga City Mayor Cesar Climaco had had occasion to complain to Commodore Gil Fernandez, commander of the AFP's Southwest Command (Sowescom), about the atrocities of the "Ilagas".

Fernandez, he said, "ordered the (FC) to

### Inside

▲ DEMORALIZATION SWEEPS A.F.P. ▲ 9 P.F.P. LEADERS ARRESTED ▲ IZYTENOS GROAN AS 'BEAUTIFUL PEOPLE' DO THEIR THING ▲ U.S. ASIAN SCHOLARS HIT MARCOS

arrest the Ilagas but no arrest was made".

Nuño also debunked the dictatorship's claims that the BSDUs were being organized solely for the defense of the barrios, saying that the BSDUs of Zamboanga City, for instance, are led by "notorious Ilagas such as Commanders Jun, Ligaya, and Candido, alias 'Walang Patawad'".

The rearming of the "Ilagas" and the virtual grant to them of "license to kill" came out in bold relief in a note captured from an "Iлага" chieftain, a photostatic copy of which Nuño sent to Malacañang.

The note, signed by a Capt. Faculin of the 4th Brigade (Philippine Army), warned "to whom it may concern", "never to molest" the bearer, Jose Verano Ricardo, who had with him a sizeable number of firearms and ammunition.

To give the dictator an idea of the magnitude of "Iлага" atrocities, Nuño told Malacañang of a killing orgy last May 4 and 5 in sitio Tandu-Buway in the town of Naga, Zamboanga del Sur.

In that two-day period, he said, "48 innocent (Muslims) including children were massacred". "Military men supported the (massacre) on the pretext that there were Muslim insurgents present at that time," he added.

Appalled by the escalation of fighting in Mindanao, particularly in Zamboanga, provoked by the AFP and their "Iлага" puppets, Nuño recounted the cycle of some of the fighting as follows:

"...After the military (Army) recruited and organized BSDUs from among non-residents, atrocities...mounted because every time innocent Muslims are killed or provoked by the so-called BSDUs and Ilagas, retaliations came either from the (Muslim) civilians or the dissidents. After the retaliations, BSDUs and Ilagas resort to indiscriminate killings of innocent Muslim civilians..."

He summarized in five pages some of the AFP and "Iлага" atrocities which included outright murder, the burning of mosques, the massacre of Muslims while at prayer sessions in their places of worship, the kidnapping of Muslim civilians who are never heard from again, the lopping off of Muslims' ears, and strafing by Philippine Air Force jetfighters and helicopter gunships.

"All provocations have always started from Ilagas...disguised as BSDU and who are...reinforced by the military..." Nuño told the dictator. ●

## AFP men demoralized; news blackout clamped

Demoralization is sweeping the ranks of AFP troops deployed in the various battle zones in the country, prompting the dictatorship to clamp a news blackout on developments in the field.

In a memorandum issued last June 13 by the dictator Marcos, he warned all government officials to "exercise utmost caution in giving out any form of information or engaging in loose talk".

Addressing himself directly to public officials of Cotabato, Zamboanga del Norte, Zamboanga del Sur, Basilan and Sulu, the dictator specified in his news embargo information on military and civilian casualties and number of evacuees.

Balita ng Malayang Pilipinas, quoting a very reliable AFP source, traced the major causes of demoralization to the following:

1. Continued heavy casualties in encounters with freedom fighters in Sulu and in the Lanao, Zamboanga, Cotabato and Davao provinces.
2. Shortage of food supplies and ammunition.
3. Realization by many of the state troopers of the unjustness of their cause and the futility of the AFP's "pacification campaign" which was reaping for them the revolutionary hatred of the masses.

Many of the troopers reportedly were outraged by the indiscriminate strafing and bombing of barrios and populated centers, especially of Muslims and other national minorities, and the mounting atrocities perpetrated by AFP-established barrio self-defense units (BSDUs) and the AFP-supported fanatically anti-Muslim "Ilagas". (See related story on page 1.)

The BMP's AFP source said the morale crisis in the state's armed forces found manifestation in various ways.

He said there had been instances when units assigned to "search and destroy" operations avoided combat by concealing themselves in areas far away from Muslim rebel strongholds, and returned to their mother units at nightfall to report that there had been no contact with the "enemy".

Some night ago, the AFP source told BMP, a 27-man Marine unit in full combat gear was ordered to report to the PAF base operations center at Nichols air base "for

transport to Central Luzon".

While awaiting their flight, he said, the non-commissioned officer on duty inadvertently mentioned that their destination was to be Zamboanga.

The Marines went into a hurried discus-



sion among themselves, dropped their gear and deserted.

This seemingly pathetic situation was being duplicated elsewhere as parents of enlisted men and even commissioned officers were making a beeline for ranking AFP officers to plead that their soldier-kin be spared from assignment in Mindanao.

In the light of the widespread demoralization in the AFP, the dictatorship has taken measures to beef up its presence in Mindanao and in other places where the New People's Army is expanding by leaps and bounds.

It has embarked on a campaign to recruit, organize and arm up to 30,000 men for service in BSDUs to help AFP regulars hold government-controlled areas.

It also has resorted to what the AFP source called "scraping the bottom of the barrel" by deploying a battalion composed of a company each from the headquarters of the major AFP services.

In addition, the source said, the dictatorship has taken to deploying what eventually end up as "lost commands".

These are units that draw men from soldiers undergoing punishment for offenses ranging from drunkenness to rape. These "commands", according to the source, are headed by a Lt. Onasan and two other officers nicknamed by their fellows in the AFP as "Django" and "Gringo". ●

## Cabinet revamp set; Enrile, Tatad out?

Contradictions within the US-Marcos dictatorship have so sharpened that the despot Marcos is called upon to reorganize his cabinet, and in the process remove Juan Ponce Enrile from the Department of National Defense.

The impending cabinet revamp would also see the relief of Francisco Tatad as head of the Department of Public Information and his replacement by Gregorio Cendaña, incumbent director of the National Media Production Center and member of the "Ilocano bloc" in the Palace.

Usually reliable sources in the Palace said the cabinet reorganization would be implemented after the July "referendum" shall have "endorsed" the martial law regime of the US-Marcos clique, probably in August.

According to these sources, Enrile would be replaced in the DND by incumbent Executive Secretary Alejandro Melchor, Jr., a notorious agent of the US Central Intelligence Agency (CIA).

Melchor's prospective appointment as defense secretary reportedly had been the subject of secret conversations between the dictator Marcos and former AFP Col. Napoleon Valeriano, who had been exposed in the Pentagon Papers as a ranking CIA official.

Valeriano arrived in Manila from the US not long ago, reportedly bearing an "important message" from the Nixon administration. His "cover" while in Manila is that of chairman of the Chico Mines, Inc., said to own the only gold-copper mine of the Gold City group inside Baguio City. (Page 13, BULLETIN TODAY, June 28, 1973)

The AFP officer turned CIA agent is remembered as the bloodthirsty commander of the AFP's notorious "Nenita Unit" which perpetrated one massacre after another among the peasantry in Central Luzon during the Maguaysay administration.

He left the Philippines when he ran off with the wife of a prominent Quezon City businessman. He has since been with the CIA, helping devise "counterinsurgency" tactics for US puppet regimes in Asia and Latin America.

Melchor's "nomination" to head the DND reportedly arose from the abject failure of Enrile's proposed mailed-fist policy in dealing with anti-fascist forces in Mindanao and elsewhere in the country.

The Nixon administration, whose primary

concern in the Philippines is to protect the dominant position of US big business and the US military bases, was said to have felt that Enrile's "hard line" was hastening the growth of the country's revolutionary forces rather than slowing them down.

As an alternative, it felt that there was need to resort to the dual tactics of white terror on the one hand and "civic action" and infrastructure construction on the other, a "counterinsurgency" ploy that had similarly failed in other countries.

Malacañang observers felt that if Melchor's appointment to the defense post goes through, it would be a signal victory for the Nixon administration, and in particular of the CIA.

A graduate of the US Naval Academy at Annapolis, Melchor had been notorious in his Philippine government service for his vigorous defense and protection of US imperialist interests, as against the interests of the Filipino people.

To lighten Enrile's disgrace, he would be reappointed secretary of justice, vice Vicente Abad Santos who would be named justice of the Supreme Court.

LIBERATION's sources in Malacañang also told of the following prospective changes in the cabinet and elsewhere in the martial law regime:

1. DPI Secretary Tatad would be named either career minister in the Department of Foreign Affairs or special Malacañang assistant. He would be replaced by Gregorio Cendaña, incumbent director of NMPC, which turns out most of the government's propaganda materials. Being mentioned for the post of assistant DPI chief was Ifugao Gov. Gualberto Lamsaig.

2. Former Senator Ernesto Maceda would be named health secretary, vice Clemente Gatmaitan who would be retired.

3. Former Assistant Executive Secretary Gilberto Duavit would be named executive secretary, vice Melchor. (Duavit, a former Constitutional Convention delegate, is remembered for his servility to Malacañang in the Con-Con's approval of Marcos amendments in the "new constitution".)

4. Former Commissioner Lino Patajo of the Commission on Elections would be named to the Court of Appeals, possibly as presiding justice.

5. The Department of Public Works and Communications would be split up between former Col. Manuel B. Syquio as secretary of public works and communications, and Public Highways Director Baltazar Aquino as secretary of highways and transportation. The incumbent DPWC secretary, David Consunji, would be retired from the service. ●

## PASIKLAB

# Leyte folk groan as the Marcoses do their thing

TACLOBAN CITY, July 3 — "Welcome, President Imelda and Ferdinand Marcos!"

So joyously proclaimed the streamers put up by the First Lady's brother, Leyte Gov. Benjamin "Kokoy" Romualdez.

They must have pleased Imelda immensely, but not the dictator who told a confidant that his brother-in-law seemed hardly able to wait to get him out of the way and have his sister reign supreme.

He was willing to overlook Gov. Kokoy's faux pas for the moment, however.

Even less pleased by the rignarole were the Leyte folk who had virtually been forced into putting up a false front for the Marcos couple and their retinue of "beautiful people" from the Manila and international jet sets.

The occasion was the inauguration of the San Juanico bridge yesterday and ("coincidentally", as one Marcos-controlled newspaper put it,) Imelda's birthday anniversary. The San Juanico span has since been renamed Marcos bridge by Malacañang and Imelda bridge by Gov. Kokoy. It links Leyte and Samar.

For many days before yesterday, transport planes of the Philippine Air Force had shuttled between the Ilocos provinces and Leyte, bringing to the less picturesque beaches of this province white sand for which the Ilocos beaches are popular.

For a whole week before yesterday, too, classes were out in all public and private schools as school children and teachers alike went into a dither, on the "request" of Gov. Kokoy, to set up a festive atmosphere for the Marcoses and their well-heeled, finely-manicured and heavily bejewelled guests.

Especially in Tacloban City and the towns of Palo, Tanauan and Tolosa, every resident had been expected to give of his time -- and money -- to the grandiose project.

Had the drought not brought on miseries to all, the Leyte folk would not have minded the agro-industrial fair since it gave them an opportunity to display and appreciate the products of their labors.

But everybody had been hard up and it



seemed like an expensive luxury for the moment.

What hurt even more was the "requirement", again courtesy of Gov. Kokoy, that every fence and every house be repainted ("at least the facade") to give the impression that everything is bright and gay in the province.

Beset by limited incomes and the spiraling cost of prime commodities, they had to dig deep into their food budgets to be able to comply.

A gallon of paint cost P45, and since one needed three gallons for the repainting job, the people fairly groaned. Some openly wondered if the Marcoses had heavy investments in the paint business.

The residents of Palo and Tanauan could do little but sigh and shake their heads because while they were not actually part of the "show", they had to undertake instant repair jobs on their fences and houses just the same.

Their sole "participation" was that in going to Imelda's hometown of Tolosa from this city, where landed the visitors from Manila and from everywhere else, the motorcade passed through their two towns.

The Marcoses and Gov. Kokoy shone at the banquet for Imelda at the "Little Malacañang" in Tolosa. They brightened up some more when they inaugurated the bridge.

(The San Juanico span had been described by Malacañang lyricists as a "symbol of love" between Marcos and his wife. Among observers here, there was relief that the Palace occupants had not thought of putting up a bridge from Leyte all the way to Marcos' home province, Ilocos Norte.)

The ceremonial ribbon was duly cut and over the bridge went car No. 1 and the rest of the presidential traffic. Cheers went up from the Marcos camp-followers. The Marcoses beamed some more and so did Gov. Kokoy.

Under the span, in the turbulent waters of San Juanico strait, the marine life had some strange creatures among them. These

turned out to be frogmen of the Philippine Navy, part of the vast army of security men that regularly travels with the Marcoses.

No harm came to them. They were the superstars in the superproduction just concluded. All was right with the world, as far as they were concerned. ●

## Montemayor turns in 7 FFF leaders to PC

Seven leaders of the Federation of Free Farmers were arrested by the PC in Tacloban City last June 29 for supposedly "plotting to assassinate" the dictator Marcos and his wife.

Reliable LIBERATION sources said they were arrested after they were falsely denounced to the martial law regime by the FFF president, Jeremias U. Montemayor.

The arrested FFF leaders were Noel Mondajar, Cesar Mascariñas, Ludovico Villamor, Gerry Bulatao, Joe Ledesma, Lot Miranda and Fr. Agatep, all of them members of the federation's national policy board.

They had been repudiating Montemayor's leadership following what they called his shameless betrayal of the interests of the country's peasantry.

Montemayor was reported to have communicated with military authorities to help "purge" the FFF of "subversive elements".

Montemayor had earlier been charged by some FFF leaders with having surrendered to the military an FFF organizer, Boy Navata, now detained in Camp Olivas, Pampanga.

In Mindanao, a group of 100 FFF leaders and members from Davao del Norte has been arrested, in addition to a group of 43 other FFF elements detained earlier by the PC. They are accused of either supporting the New People's Army or being NPA fighters themselves.

The hunt by the martial law regime for

the "left-wing" of the FFF is now in full swing on the basis of information furnished by Montemayor.

The FFF president has so exposed himself as an enemy of the country's peasantry that many FFF members who used to follow his lead have repudiated him completely. They are being denounced as "subversives" by Montemayor.

These FFF members said it was now clear that Montemayor, a member of the landed gentry, has, as FFF president, made a profession out of swindling the poor peasants and farm workers.

They added that as a hireling of US imperialism, he "has made it a lifetime profession to mislead the peasants into believing that they can improve their lot by subscribing to the 'land reform' program of the reactionary government".

It will be recalled that Montemayor was one of the foremost supporters of the bogus land reform of Marcos when it was inaugurated in October last year.

He has even gone out of his way to apologize for the dictatorship when its "land reform" faltered time and again in its "implementation".●

## US Asian scholars condemn dictatorship

The Committee of Concerned Asian Scholars (CCAS) condemned the US-Marcos dictatorship and demanded that the US government stop supporting the Marcos fascist regime.

The CCAS's sentiment was embodied in a resolution the group passed in its national convention last March. The convention considered the Philippines of top priority in its agenda.

The CCAS is an association of scholars in the United States with Asia as their special field of study. It was set up in 1968 in opposition to the evil effects of imperialism and of political repression in all countries.

Its members have put out books exposing US aggression in Vietnam and have mobilized a big number of scholars in the US to oppose US imperialist acts of aggression, subversion and intervention throughout the world.

The CCAS also has ongoing projects supporting the GI movement in the US military, particularly in the US military complex in Okinawa.

The resolution on the Philippines reads

in part:

"We condemn the militarization of the Philippines, in particular the imposition of martial law, which passes as law and order. We oppose the Marcos dictatorship in the Philippines. The support that the US government and corporations have lent this government is indicative of the fact that America's role in Vietnam was not a 'tragic mistake', but a natural outcome of policies that continue to shape our foreign policy.

"We express our deep concern at the increasing American support of Marcos' government in the form of advisors and funds which raise the real possibility of another Vietnam war.

"We demand that the United States cut off economic and military aid to the Marcos dictatorship."

In its newsletter reporting on the convention, the CCAS said that as opposition mounts in the Philippines, "Marcos turns to the US for increased aid to put down the New People's Army and all other opposition groups".

Aside from adopting its resolution, the CCAS formed a committee to initiate local actions in support of the Philippine anti-dictatorship movement.

Research work on the Philippines is now underway in Berkeley, California. An initial appropriation of \$400 was approved for projects on the Philippines which include a slide show on current and political developments.●

