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## Inside

5	MAINSTREAM	Giving flesh and blood to Christianity
13	VIEWPOINT	A visit to the palace
15	CULTURAL	Alay sa isang kaibigan



# 1981: FROM NORMALIZATION TO POLARIZATION



## IN THIS ISSUE

EDITORIAL	
1981: From "Normalization" to Polarization . . . . .	2
MAINSTREAM	
"We can't let them intimidate us" . . . . .	3
The arsenal of repression . . . . .	4
Giving flesh and blood to Christianity . . . . .	5
CL farmers break a decade-long silence . . . . .	7
The chains of usury . . . . .	9
They could not detect the enemy . . . . .	10
17 years of struggle . . . . .	11
SPARKS . . . . .	12
VIEWPOINT	
A visit to the palace . . . . .	13
CULTURAL	
Alay sa isang kaibigan . . . . .	15
POINTBLANK . . . . .	16

The year began for the Marcos regime with a well-scripted plan. First, the lifting of martial law. Then a "plebiscite" leading to "elections". Marcos would win, of course; but that was not the point. The traditional opposition must be drawn into the process to make it credible, at least to the powers that matter.

The name of the game was "normalization", or how to induce the "legitimate opposition" (hopefully, also the people they presumably represent) into helping make an abnormal political situation appear normal.

In blunter terms, to unite the elite so that the Marcos regime can concentrate on the popular and radical opposition.

The other part of the script was militarization. The popular and radical opposition were not just to be politically isolated through "normalization"; they had to be divided and subdued. Not just armed groups like the NPA and MNLF, Not just underground groups like the member organizations of the NDF, but all people who dare to organize and protest openly.

The Reagan regime did its part well. We could even say it "overacted". It stepped up military aid to Marcos (continuing what Carter never stopped even when he chided Marcos for human rights violations). It declared open political support. For good measure, it exerted non-too-subtle pressure on the US-based opposition and their Philippine counterparts to follow the "normalization" script.

By mid-1981, the scripted plan was in shreds. The united boycott movement was the most visible and spectacular sign of a political trend that is firmly established by this year's end — polarization.

On one side, a politically isolated US-Marcos regime. On the other side, a broad range of opponents, with the popular and radical opposition playing the bigger and more decisive role.

What went wrong for Marcos and what went right for the people?

One factor was the economy. Although in steady deterioration even at the imposition of martial law, it took a sharp downturn this year, complete with Dewey Dee capers and cronies crying for bail out. The regimes excuses sound lamer each round.

Another factor is the underestimation (shall we say contempt?) in the treatment both Reagan and Marcos regimes gave the traditional opposition. Perhaps, they thought the opposition would buckle under pressure and didn't calculate the proper measure of concessions they should have offered. For a while (and even now), some showed signs of yielding. But the end result was resentment and disenchantment. Instead of being merely anti-Marcos, the traditional opposition now harbor grudges against the US government (at least against the Reagan administration). Some even allow themselves to question the present system.

But these two factors, by themselves, would not have produced polarization. The third factor, the key factor, was the dramatic leap in the strength and skills of the popular and radical opposition.

The boycott campaign was only the most visible outburst of anger and power that have been accumulating, especially in the last three years. The momentum of growth that is now clearly recognized in both national and international political circles is the product of a successful search for strategy and tactics called for by our particular situation.

The political strength and skills of the popular and radical opposition reflect the effective combination of secret and open struggle, of urban and rural struggle, of armed and unarmed struggle. As the movement develops further its skill in combining the struggle inside the Philippines with the struggle in the international arena, it will consolidate the place conceded to it even by non-sympathetic observers — as the only effective long-term alternative.

Polarization, however, offers new opportunities and challenges. It is the fertile ground for further nurturing the seeds of a unified opposition sown during the boycott campaign. ▲

**LIBERATION** —  
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# MAINSTREAM

By MINDA RODRIGO



## HUMAN RIGHTS RALLY

# "We can't let them intimidate us"

► Feb. 1, 1981, Guinayangan, Quezon. Two farmers were shot dead and 16 were injured when soldiers opened fire at some 3,000 people who were protesting against the restrictions of COCOFED.

► June 14, Daet, Camarines Norte. Four persons were killed and about 50 others were wounded when soldiers tried to stop a 3,000-strong boycott march against the June 16 presidential election.

► July to August, Northwestern Mindanao. Thirteen farmers, most of them Subanons, were slaughtered during the rampage of Rock Christ, a pseudo-religious and paramilitary group.

► Sept. 15, Las Navas, Samar. Forty-five men, women and children were massacred by members of the Special Forces and Civilian Home Defense Forces who wanted to drive them out from Enrile's timber concession in the area.

► Dec. 19, Culasi, Antique. Five demonstrators were shot to death when troopers tried to disperse a rally of 400 to 500 peasants against militarization.

These and other military atrocities took place after Marcos had supposedly lifted martial law on Jan. 17. More instances of military abuse had occurred before that, all of them pointing to the regime's gross violation and denial of human rights.

To mark the US-Marcos regime's bloody record, concerned people held simultaneous gatherings in various parts of the country last Dec. 10, the 33rd anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

### MAKIISA-KA rally

At the Christ the King Church in Quezon City, about 2,000 church people, students, workers, jeepney drivers and farmers gathered to denounce the systematic suppression of human rights by a government which has supposedly signed the declaration and repeatedly expressed its support for the document.

Sponsored by the Makabayang Kilusan para Isulong ang Katarungan (MAKIISA-KA), a multi-sectoral alliance of 30 organizations and institutions, the indoor rally climaxed the first round of public trials conducted by MAKIISA-KA to document and expose the crimes of the US-Marcos regime against the people and to demand indemnification for the victims of fascism.

Representatives from various sectors discussed how their basic rights as human beings were being trampled upon by the regime. The highlight of the program was the testimony of a seven-year-old girl who survived the Las Navas massacre in Samar.

A student speaker deplored the increasing presence of military intelligence agents in the campuses and the intervention and stationing of police forces to crush protest actions. They singled out the connivance of school administrations and the government in suppressing student opposition to the Education Act, the neo-colonial and commercialized educational system, the neglect of school facilities and the denial of student councils, organizations and publications.

Similarly, a labor leader lashed out at the enactment of the Strike Law which, while purporting to restore the right to strike, actually renders it impossible because of numerous preconditions laid down. He also criticized the use of the courts to harass and convict strikers. "When all 'legal' measures have failed to stop a strike," he said, "goons and soldiers are sent to break it up."

A statement of the political detainees was also read during the program. The

detainees said that while international organizations like the Red Cross and Amnesty International work hard to safeguard human rights, "the national and democratic rights of the people must be protected and upheld mainly by the people's active and persevering assertion of them."

### In Davao and Cagayan de Oro

On the same day, about 5,000 people held an indoor rally at the Ateneo de Davao University. The event marked the first time that an anti-militarization gathering was aired live on radio.

Another rally took place in a sports stadium at Cagayan de Oro. About 1,000 participants staged a people's tribunal which indicted the government for its hand in the murders committed by the Rock Christ group in Northwestern Mindanao. A rally was also held in Lipa City, Batangas attended by a substantial number of people.

In Davao, at least 140 persons representing a broad cross-section of society signed a statement declaring the Marcos government "one of the worst violators of the Universal Declaration." The statement was issued by the Lihok Hugpong Alang sa Katungod (LIHOK or Action Group for Human Rights). The signatories included farmers, fishermen, jeepney drivers as well as church people, lawyers, teachers, media members, government employees, doctors, nurses, and Jaycee and Rotary Club members.

They pointed to the rising trend of increasing and worsening military abuse. From individual and secret repressive act-



ions like arrests, detention, torture and salvaging, the military now resorts to mass and open measures like grenade bombings and massacres to quell dissent. They traced the intensification of military abuse to the increasing number of troops being deployed by the government to the countryside. (see box)

### Why militarization?

The questions arise: Why the burgeoning increase in military might when the government has made such a big show of returning to normalcy? Why the growing brutality and frequency of repressive measures when the defense ministry has repeatedly announced that "subversives" are well under control? Why the rise of direct assaults on civilians when Marcos and Enrile have often smugly remarked that the revolutionary movement does not have and could never hope to have a mass following?

The answers can be gleaned from the questions themselves. Although the government has always desperately tried to withhold or distort the news, it is becoming clear that the revolutionary mass movement has gained and is, in fact, gaining more participants and supporters nationwide.

In the name of "national security" and "public order", the regime is waging a punitive campaign to impede the advance of revolutionary forces, especially the New People's Army (NPA) and the Bangsa Moro Army (BMA), the military arm of the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF). In the course of this campaign, a disturbing pattern has unfolded.

The Task Force Detainees of the Philippines (TFDP) reveals that while the number of arrest and detention has dropped to 734 as of July 1981 from 60,000 at the declaration of martial law in Sept. 1972, there has been an alarming increase in the number of reported salvaging nationwide. Between January to July this year, a total of 110 salvagings were reported all over the country.

"For so short a period, this is too high an incidence when compared to the 502 cases reported from 1975 to 1980," the TFDP noted. "The terrifying implications is that more and more arrested civilians are now being executed immediately instead of being taken to detention centers alive!"

### Broad anti-militarization campaign

Faced with escalating repression, the formation of a broad, militant and sustained anti-militarization movement such as MAKIISA-KA and LIHOK is a step towards the right direction. This would generate strong public opinion against military atrocities and make the regime accountable by command responsibility for the deeds of its armed forces. At the same time, this would isolate the regime inside and outside the country while providing a protective shield for the mass movement and the people's army.

"This campaign to expose the crimes of the regime against the very citizens it is supposed to protect strikes at the very heart of justice," said the political detainees in their statement. "The victims of such crimes, supported by all the organized sectors of the people, must demand from the regime just compensation for lives and properties lost."

A participant in the Dec. 10 rally thoughtfully added: "We cannot just stand by and let them intimidate us. We must protest." ▲

## The arsenal of repression



A look at the entire military machinery will reveal significant increases in its manpower. From 60,000 soldiers before martial law, the regime now counts 275,000 in its regular force. The number does not include the Integrated National Police (INP) which counts about 65,000 members, the Integrated Civilian Home Defense Forces (ICHDF) estimated at 175,000, the para-military forces which number about 35,000 in Mindanao alone, and the notorious "Lost Command" whose number could not be determined.

Also buttressing the regime's campaign to extract absolute submission from the people are 392,000 youth brigades and 400,000 barangay kawals who completed in 1979 their basic military training in civil defense, a euphemism for the suppression of mass actions. In September 1979, Marcos made known his goal of forming a 900,000-strong citizens' army to complement a military battalion in every province.

Proportional to the expansion of military and para-military forces is the dramatic increase of the military bud-

get. From P880 million in 1972, the military budget jumped to P6.7 billion in 1982 or a 13.8 percent increase from P6 billion in 1979. Under martial law, the military has consistently reaped the single biggest allocation in the national budget.

The US government helps to bankroll the regime's military buildup. Reports reveal the immediate release of \$200 million in US military aid this year. The amount is part of the \$500-million aid which the US was supposed to give in five yearly installments. The early release of \$100 million more was urged by the regime to boost its plan of building 10 additional battalions to augment the existing military strength.

The economic factor plays a key part in the regime's militarization campaign. Peasants and tribal Filipinos have become increasingly aware that where there are soldiers, there are projects like the Chico Dam that siphon their land's wealth to transnational corporations and big local firms and threaten their livelihood and survival. ▲



There was a storm raging that day. But inside the wood-paneled hall, the mood was warm and hopeful. The people linked arms as they wistfully sang "Bayan Ko," an old patriotic song. One by one, each one of them stepped forward to a small table in the middle of the gathering and signed their revolutionary names to a declaration. Slivers of sunlight began to filter through the windows, casting a pale glow over the room. The howling of the wind and the rustle of tree branches waned outside. The storm was passing away.

This scene took place somewhere in Southern Tagalog during the last quarter of 1981. The people gathered in the room were priests, pastors, nuns, deaconesses, seminarians and laypersons. They are members of the Christians for National Liberation (CNL), an organization of Christians committed to the national democratic revolution in the Philippines. It was the last day of the CNL Second National Congress and the image of the stream of light was appropriate to the occasion.

The Congress represents a significant breakthrough for the CNL after more than nine years of struggle and hardship under the US-Marcos regime. The last time it held its convention was in August 1972.

The purpose of the five-day Congress was to draw lessons from the past, assess the CNL's present state, consolidate the organization and forge a new program of action. About 50 delegates representing various subsectors in the Roman Catholic Church, the Protestant Church and Philippine Independent Church attended the Congress. They came from all the regions of the country and included two foreigners.

In their declaration, the delegates reaffirmed their "commitment to the struggle of our people for national liberation and democracy." They declared: "Through this message, we make our pledge public and invite fellow Christians and Filipinos, and all like-minded people here and abroad to join us in this common struggle." The delegates took the CNL pledge with clenched fists raised, becoming the first full-fledged CNL members.

#### Offspring of the FQS

"The CNL is in a way born of the storm," said Fr. Jaime Tayag, a CNL founding member. He was referring to the tropical storm that day and to the First Quarter Storm of 1970 when massive demonstrations and other mass actions in the cities and countryside crystallized into the national democratic line with its call for an all-sided anti-imperialist, anti-feudal and anti-fascist struggle.

Young church activists were drawn into the vortex of the struggle, participating in politicizing and organizing peasants, workers and slum dwellers. On Feb. 17, 1972, the centennial anniversary of the



## Giving flesh and blood to Christianity

By LEON FORTALEZA

martyrdom of the three courageous diocesan priests, Frs. Gomez, Burgos and Zamora, the CNL was founded. On that same day, the new national democratic mass organization staged its first rally in front of the Manila Cathedral.

The organization was barely seven months old when martial law was imposed. About a hundred progressive and liberal church personnel were arrested and detained, including many CNL members. The CNL was forced to operate underground. Despite setbacks, the CNL however, continued to develop politically and organizationally and to make valuable contributions to the struggle.

In April 1973, the CNL was among the organizations that cooperated with the Communist Party of the Philippines in forming the Preparatory Commission for the NDF. It has been represented in the NDF ever since and has helped staff its official organ, *Liberation*. More than a score of CNL members have joined the New People's Army since Fr. Roberto linked up with the NPA in Visayas in 1973. Last March, Frs. Conrado Balweg,

Nilo Valerio, Bruno and Cirilo Ortega joined the NPA in Abra.

"The CNL puts into practice loving one's neighbor effectively," Sister Crista Libertad, a CNL delegate from Northern Luzon, said in an interview with *Liberation*. "This is the commitment of Christ by which he gave himself to others. This cannot be taken separately from the struggles and sufferings of the people."

#### Program of action

This commitment to "love one's neighbor and serve the people" is reiterated in the CNL general program (see box) drawn up by the Congress. In this comprehensive program, the CNL reaffirmed its membership in the NDF and rededicated itself to broadening the united front on the basis of the NDF program.

"As Christians, we have to make a political stand," remarked Fr. Elias Librador, a foreign priest and CNL member. "We opted for the most relevant political program existing which is national democracy."



He noted that the CNL gives Christians a material stake in the success of the revolution: "Not only the assertion of our faith, but the formation of a new church." Freedom of religion which includes freedom of belief and public worship and the right to own church buildings and land is protected under the national democratic society. For instance, the NPA Guide for Land Reform explicitly guarantees that "land shall be set aside for religious purposes."

Fr. Rico Santiago, CNL delegate from Southern Tagalog, pointed out that at present the church, as an institution, is primarily on the side of counter-revolution. He said: "There will be a national democratic transformation of churches if the church people are supportive of the struggles of the basic masses and become a Church of the People." Added Jack, a Protestant Pastor; "The transformation of the church cannot be separated from the transformation of society."

The Congress, however, carefully stressed that such transformation does not mean a schism in the Roman Catholic Church in the Philippines. The general features of such transformation, as set forth in the CNL program, simply demand "more self-determining and self-administering churches" as against "all forms of feudal and imperialist relations with foreign churches and bodies"; "more indigenous forms of religious expressions, a Filipino theology, liturgy and spirituality"; and "more democratic church structures with more democratic participation in choosing leaders, defining programs, shaping structures and shaping resources."

The Congress also drafted a Constitution and discussed the national situation and the history of the church and the CNL. Regional delegates gave reports on the

people's condition, militarization and CNL organizing work in their areas. Elections were held to choose 15 members for the National Council, the highest implementing body of the CNL. The National Congress shall meet after four years.

#### Solidarity messages

Messages of solidarity were given by the NDF and its member organizations. Among these were the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP), Kabataang Makabayan (KM), Makabayang Samahan Pangkalusugan (MASAPA), Katipunan ng mga Gurong Makabayan (KAGUMA) and the Komite ng Sambayanang Pilipino (KSP), an alliance of Philippine support groups in Europe.

The NDF message was read by its representative, Horacio Morales, Jr., a leading government technocrat who defected to the NDF in December 1977. Morales cited the recent developments and advances made in united front work.

"Practically all opposition forces including the elite and traditional opposition have arrived, step by step, at certain key consensus that approximate the NDF political line," Morales revealed. These key points are the recognition of armed struggle, nationalist politics, mass politics and the need for a united front that should include the "left," if it is to be representative and effective.

"These developments give the revolutionary struggle additional impetus but also additional responsibilities," Morales stressed. He indicated three areas of concern for the CNL:

► **Consolidate and expand CNL.** As a member organization of the NDF, its strengthening by itself strengthens the united front.

► **Develop a sectoral mass movement as part of the overall revolutionary movement.** This will create the condition for expanding alliance work, both strategic and tactical, with other political organizations, both Christian and non-Christian.

► **Launch a vigorous international solidarity work.** There is a tremendous CNL potential for international work, not just for direct support to it but for the whole front.

The CPP statement said: "That this Congress is a congress of consolidation shows the advances the CNL has made in drawing to the ranks of the national democratic revolution a great many of our countrymen in the church sector." A foreign representative of the KSP, who was present to read their statement, added: "(The Congress) is an expression of a significant growth of the CNL through several years of painstaking effort and sacrifice under the harsh conditions of the US-backed Marcos dictatorship. We are strengthened by this development of the CNL as it moves forward in the revolutionary struggle."

In its closing liturgy, the Congress commemorated two CNL martyrs who were killed in the course of revolutionary struggle. Carlos Tayag, a Benedictine deacon and CNL founding member, was kidnapped by military agents on Aug. 17, 1976 and is feared salvaged. Puri Pedro, a social worker, was arrested and tortured to death by the military in early 1977.

Fr. Jaime urged the assembly to carry on the struggle they have begun and to rise to the challenges of the times and of their faith. He said: "People rarely go out of their way to make history. Now, I think we should be conscious of making history. Not only as Filipinos, but as Christians." ▲

## The CNL Program



(Our) program has two general tasks. The first, which CNL shares with all national democratic forces, is the overthrow of the US-Marcos dictatorship and the establishment of a people's coalition government. The second, which is a special responsibility of CNL, is the national democratic transformation of the Christian churches.

In line with this general program, we commit ourselves to fulfill these urgent tasks:

1. Develop a revolutionary mass movement of Christians, particularly of church people, as part of the overall revolutionary mass movement.
2. Help advance the revolutionary mass movements of peasants, workers and the petty bourgeoisie.
3. Hasten the building of the National Democratic Front (NDF).
4. Gather all possible political and material support for the advance of the armed struggle.

5. Wage a cultural struggle, especially in the religious sphere, in line with the national democratic revolution.

6. Help advance our international solidarity work.

7. Struggle for democratic reforms toward the national democratic transformation of the Christian churches.

These seven tasks are the components of a comprehensive national democratic program for the Christian churches. It is along these lines that we can arouse, mobilize and organize the greatest number of church people and Christians who identify closely with the churches.

In fulfilling these tasks, we give flesh and blood to our Christian faith. In fulfilling these tasks, we incarnate ourselves in the deepest possible way -- linked to the life and death struggle of our people. ▲



DEC. 9 QC RALLY

# CL farmers break a decade-long silence

By JULIAN CRISOSTOMO

For many farmers in Central Luzon, the sight of ripening palay is a bitter reminder of debts which must be paid once the harvest is over. As a tenant farmer from Bataan puts it: "Para ka lamang nakipagkamay sa palay." (It's just like shaking hands with the rice plants.) For after the winnowing and the threshing, these golden fruits of the long days of laboring under the rain or the hot sun end up in the warehouse of the landlord or usurer.

Through most of the martial law period, peasant problems have remained unarticulated in the urban centers by those who bear the brunt of suffering in the countryside. But the silence was broken last Dec 9 when more than 2,000 Central Luzon farmers trooped to the Ministry of Agriculture in Quezon City to collectively air their grievances.

The farmers traveled in several busloads all the way to the city from their respective barrios in Bulacan, Pampanga, Tarlac, Nueva Ecija and Bataan. They converged at the Parks and Wildlife Office and marched with their placards and streamers to the front steps of the ministry's building where they shouted slogans and listened to speakers from the different provinces. The Dulaang Malolos, a local drama group from Bulacan, also presented a play depicting the plight of farmers.

## First farmers' rally in Manila

Not since the massive demonstrations of pre-martial law days have so many farmers taken part in a Manila mass action. More than a decade has passed since thousands of peasants joined students and workers in the people's marches of the First Quarter Storm of 1970.

Though the recent protest action was much smaller in scale, it was a victory for the farmers whose militance prompted the regime's agriculture officials to listen to their grievances. While the rally was going on outside the ministry, peasant leaders presented their demands in a conference with the regime's representatives.

The rally was actually the culmination of a series of petitions and delegations sent to the Fertilizer and Pesticide Authority (FPA) over the past two months. Initiated by the Central Bula-

**LIBERATION JANUARY 1982**

can Area Marketing Cooperative and supported by several farmers' organizations in other Central Luzon provinces, these mass actions called for a rollback in fertilizer and pesticide prices, an increase in the palay support price and an immediate public hearing on these issues.

The barrage of petitions and delegations was snubbed by FPA authorities. The farmers responded by consolidating their ranks and joining their different associations under the banner of the Alliance of Central Luzon Farmers (ACLF) which they formed last Nov 14.



After the rally at the agriculture ministry, they proceeded to the Batasang Pambansa committee on agriculture to dramatize their protests.

## Harvest of problems

All these mass actions were launched during the harvest season which, more than any other time of year, should be a period of relative ease and prosperity for the farmers.

While peasant indebtedness and usury are age-old problems in the Philippine countryside, these problems have worsened and taken new forms in the last decade. Most farmers say that times are harder now than they were 10 or 20

years ago. The irony of the matter lies in the fact that this increasing poverty and misery are felt at a time when farmers are supposed to be reaping the fruits of the regime's land reform and agricultural modernization programs.

Back in the early '70s, the introduction of high-yielding rice varieties, tractors, fertilizers, pesticides and other modern agricultural methods from the West was hailed as the force that would pull Philippine agriculture out of the cesspool of backwardness in which it had been stuck for centuries. Crop yields were

supposed to increase many times over and a period of unprecedented prosperity would dawn in the rural areas.

Yet, statistics show that this dawning may never come. Figures from the Bureau of Agricultural Economics (Baecon) revealed that the average income of rice farmers in 1973 was P354 per cropping season. Today, the average farm income is P836, according to computations made by the agriculture ministry. However, in the eight years since 1973, the cost of living has increased four times and the real value of the peso has decreased to less than one-third of its former value while within the same time period, rice farming income has only doubled.



## High costs of farm inputs

The decline in the real value of farm incomes is caused primarily by soaring costs of farm inputs produced mainly by foreign-owned corporations and the low prices of farm products. In 1966, it cost only P28 to fertilize one hectare of riceland. Today, the per hectare expense on fertilizer is over 16 times that amount or P455, says the International Rice Research Institute. However, in that same span of time, the price of palay increased by less than four times from P0.41 to P1.55 per kilo.

The cost of other agricultural inputs such as pesticides, seeds and gasoline for tractors and threshing machines has also increased in recent years. In Central Luzon, farmers usually pay P400 as rent for every hectare of land harrowed by tractor. For irrigation, they pay eight cavans of palay (about P560).

But the use of these high-priced agricultural inputs has not significantly increased rice yields. Data from the Baecon show that for the crop years 1974-79, the average yield per hectare of land planted to the traditional varieties was two tons and for land planted to the high-yielding varieties, 2.4 tons. That means an increase of only .4 tons (or

400 kilos) which is equivalent to a mere eight cavans of palay. For such a small increase in yield, high-yielding varieties must be cared for with large doses of fertilizer, pesticides, herbicides and irrigation. They must also be planted within a short span of time, thus requiring the use of tractors. To compound farmers' problems are usury and high land rents. (see box)

## Inefficacy of old leadership

The Dec. 9 rally is a positive sign of the farmers' growing resrlessness and militance. It is at the same time a clear indicator of the inefficacy of the leadership of most traditional peasant organizations which have long remained silent on peasant welfare issues. In the past decade, these organizations have become closely identified with, if they were not actually initiated, by they regime and are used mainly to implement its "rural development" programs.

The nationwide network of **samahang nayons**, for example, was established mainly as supports for the land reform and the Masagana 99 programs. The Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries Association (ARBA) was set up by no less than the agrarian reform minister himself,

Conrado Estrella. The Huk Vets and the Federation of Agricultural and Industrial Toiling Hands (FAITH) are both under the personal supervision of Assemblyman Luis Taruc who also happens to be a consultant for the Ministry of Agrarian Reform.

At present, the National Congress of Farmers Organization (NCFO) is being eyed not only as a conduit for the regime's newest showcase project, the Kilusang Kabuhayan at Kaunlaran (KKK), but as the peasant organizational counterpart of the Trade Union Congress of the Philippines (TUCP), the government-controlled labor federation.

Because they work so closely for the regime, these peasant organizations are not credible to farmers who often end up at the losing end of the government's agrarian policies and programs. More and more, the farmers realize that they must form independent organizations which advance their genuine interests and demands.

It is in this light that the establishment of the Alliance of Central Luzon Farmers is a welcome event in the development of the peasant mass movement. The alliance can reach out and mobilize the broad masses of peasants in Central Luzon and spearhead various types of open mass actions in barrios and main urban centers even as the New People's Army steps up direct armed actions in the countryside. This would constitute a necessary and valuable support for armed struggle and for the whole revolutionary struggle.

Already, the protest actions spearheaded by the alliance have generated lively discussions in many Central Luzon barrios. In the town of Talavera, Nueva Ecija, for example, residents in five barrios held mass meetings to discuss issues raised by their fellow farmers during the rally. Elsewhere, those who attended the Dec 9 rally went around their villages to relay what had transpired and what new hopes still lay for the farmers if they were organized. News of the protest action quickly spread by word of mouth from barrio to barrio as residents eagerly listened to those who had come from Manila or awaited the developments in newspaper or radio reports.

In the course of their meetings, the member organizations of the alliance have also come up with other demands: the writing-off of Masagana 99 debts and the institution of a more viable credit program, the lowering of land rent, the construction of irrigation and flood control programs free of charge, the recognition of the farmers' right to self-organization and free association, and an end to the ejection of farmers because of land reforms and infrastructure projects.▲

JANUARY 1982 LIBERATION







## ***Chains of usury***

Taking all the expenses of farmers into account, it is estimated that a rice farmer needs about P2,000 in capital for every every hectare of riceland he tills. Frequently, he is faced with no other recourse but to borrow heavily from usurers or, if he still has good credit standing, from the local rural bank.

**Himagsik**, mass newspaper in Western Central Luzon, reports that the usual rates of interest charged by moneylenders in the area range from the **talikpan** (100 percent interest) to the **talindua** (50 percent) and the **terciahan** (33 percent or the so-called "5-6"). Rural banks, meanwhile, charge an effective interest rate of 32.2 percent under the Masagana 99 lending program. In many instances, the usurers and the owners of the rural banks as well as the dealers of fertilizers and pesticides are also the local landlords.

On top of the high cost of

production, the farmers must yet pay land rents or amortizations to the Land Bank if their land is included in the land reform program. In Central Luzon, leaseholders (those who till land not covered by land reform) usually pay to their landlords an annual rent of 12 cavans of palay per hectare. On the other hand, "amortizing owners" under Operation Land Transfer must pay yearly an average of P7,000 per hectare for 25 years before the land can be theirs. In some areas, the 50-50 sharing agreement, which was long declared illegal, still prevails. Under this arrangement, both the production costs and the harvest are supposed to be divided equally between the landlord and the tenant. However, it usually happens that the tenant ends up shouldering most of the costs.

Summing up, it can be said that in the last decade or so, peasant surplus was extracted not only through the traditional forms — high land rents and

usurious rates of interests — but also through the new forms brought about by agricultural "modernization" — the exorbitant costs of farm inputs, including seeds, fertilizers and pesticides as well as rents for tractors, threshing machines and irrigation pumps.

Thus, it is not unusual that when a farmer makes an accounting after harvest time, he finds himself with a negative balance. He must trek the road to the usurer's once more, if only to keep his family alive. Then, he must borrow again once the rains come to announce the beginning of another planting season. More than ever before, the rice farmer finds himself trapped in a spiral of increasing debts. A Nueva Ecija farmer sums up the situation thus: "**Para sa amin, ang palay hindi pa tumutubo, wala nang uhay.**" (Even before the rice plants have grown, they have already been harvested by others.) ▲



# They could not detect the enemy

By **HERMILO MANUEL**  
LIBERATION correspondent

It was 5 a.m. when the armed men arrived in the barrio in full battle regalia. They summoned the barrio captain and ordered the immediate training and calisthenics of the Civilian Home Defense Forces (CHDF) based in the barrio.

With ease and expertise, the armed men issued the drill commands. "Left-right-left!" "About face!" The CHDF members dutifully obeyed. They marched around the town center.

The CHDFs were then commanded to lay down their arms and put these in a pile. They again dutifully obeyed. They were told to continue marching. And away from the pile of arms they marched. When they were at a safe distance from the arms, the army commanding officer took aside the barrio captain.

"Didn't the Airborne teach you how to detect the enemy?" he asked.

"Yes, sir!" the barrio captain replied.

"Then how come you don't know we are NPAs?"

The barrio captain and the CHDF were dumbstruck. They fearfully looked around them. But the rest of the platoon of the New People's Army had already positioned themselves to their advantage.

## Biggest disarming operation

This military operation took place in barrio Tolan in the municipality of Mahayag in Zamboanga del Sur last Nov. 5. Posing as crack troops of the 8th Infantry Battalion (IB) of the Philippine Army (PA) the NPA unit summoned all the CHDF members in the sitio center and the sitio of Bubod. Afterwards, they proceeded to barrio Malubo and conducted similar operations.

The raids ran smoothly in both barrios. The people's guerillas seized 28 Garand rifles, four M-1 carbines, two .22 caliber rifles and several rounds of ammunition. The raids started at 5 a.m. and ended at 11 a.m. Not a shot was fired.

The disarming operation is the biggest since the confiscation of 31 arms in Western Samar in the period of April to September. The operation was the result of the careful monitoring of movements of government troops in the Malindang mountains. The plan was in accordance with the series of tactical offensives to increase the firepower of the NPA, consolidate its territorial influence and expand its membership.

The CHDF in Mahayag town had earlier been trained by the Airborne Infantry Battalion of the Special Warfare Brigade (SWaB) after it entered the area in May 1981. The Home Defense Force Group of the Airborne battalion was given the task to train and arm the CHDF and other civilian volunteers. These were recruited from fanatic groups like the 4KK and Rock Christ and were made to spy on and fight the NPAs operating in the area.

The training spanned three months, from June to August. Afterwards, the Airborne troops conducted search-and-destroy operations in the area, using the local CHDF units. For the next three months, September to November, they brought extensive damage and suffering on the poor settlers living at the foot of Malindang mountains. Many innocent civilians were killed and possessions seized. Some 500 families had to evacuate their homes and flee to safety in places near the town. The CHDF tortured and killed some of those who remained.

## Intensified militarization

Militarization was stepped up in the three provinces of the Zamboanga peninsula. The Airborne units were stationed

in Zamboanga del Norte and Sur. In Misamis Occidental, the 9th Infantry Battalion (PA), known as Sandigan, was deployed after the June 16 sham elections when a great number of the local people boycotted the elections.

In October, the 8th Infantry Battalion was assigned to replace the Airborne troops. At present, however, the Airborne Battalion is still in the area. Additional forces from the 41st Infantry Battalion were deployed in Zamboanga del Sur.

The increased military might did not demoralize the people and their guerillas. They decided to teach the military some lessons. The first lesson came on Sept. 21. Two CHDF members were ambushed in La Lalud, Tudela town in Misamis Occidental and their Garand rifles were seized. On Oct. 23, Ayoy Balase, chief of the Rock Christ fanatic sect, was meted the death punishment by a two-man NPA sparrow unit in his fishpond in Dapitan City.

The next lesson came on Nov. 5. The lesson was taught with such skill and ingenuity that even the army's own paid troops in the barrio, the CHDF, could not distinguish friend from foe. That day's lesson wound up with the seizure of 34 arms in six hours.  $\Delta$







# KABATAANG MAKABAYAN 17 YEARS OF STRUGGLE

By DELLA MIRANDA

**Kabataang Makabayan (KM), the national democratic youth organization, celebrated its anniversary last Nov. 30, marking 17 years of struggle and the 118th birth anniversary of Andres Bonifacio, founder and leader of the Katipunan and revolutionary exemplar of the Filipino youth.**

In a statement, the KM said its anniversary comes "at a time when the student movement has surged forward and surpassed in breadth and depth all other student mass struggles since the imposition of martial law in September 1972."

To commemorate the event, KM members staged three simultaneous lightning rallies in various parts of Metro Manila last Dec. 2. Carrying streamers and shouting slogans, the youths rapidly marched along Aurora Blvd. in Cubao and along España Ave. and Taft Ave. in Manila. On the way, they distributed underground leaflets to passersby and pasted posters on nearby walls. They dispersed quickly to elude arrest.

## Nationwide mass actions

The recent upsurge of the student movement is best indicated by the open mass actions which rocked campuses all over the country. According to KM, some 390,000 students from August to October this year took part in boycotts in at least 60 schools in the nation's key cities. These cities, which are also the main student centers, are Manila, Baguio, Davao, Cebu, Bacolod, Iloilo, Dagupan, Cabanatuan, Angeles, Laoag, Batangas, Lucena and Cagayan de Oro.

In addition, scores of thousands of students participated in militant forms of

mass protest like street demonstrations and marches in several cities.

Three main slogans were bannered by these mass actions: 1) restoration of democracy in the campuses, 2) end of imperialist control over education, and 3) dismantling of the US-Marcos dictatorship. The last call is a political slogan which, according to KM, "links the immediate interests of the students to the basic interests of the Filipino people and binds the students' struggle to the people's revolutionary struggle against the dictatorship."

The first two calls crystallize the immediate sectoral interests of the studentry: In concrete terms, these carry the demands for the restoration of independent student council and campus papers, the rollback of tuition fees, the improvement of school facilities and the abolition of courses and programs designed to glorify the Marcos regime and to cater to the needs of imperialist firms.

From these militant protest actions, the KM anniversary statement said the students have reaped significant gains. These include the broadening of student rights, the check to campus militarization and the sanction to freely hold outdoor rallies and demonstrations.

## Foremost victory

KM, however, noted that "the first and foremost victory of the student protest movement is the nationwide propagation of the correct political line, the national democratic line. Its concrete application is in the exposure and condemnation of the dictatorship for aggravating the problems of the educational system."

In this particular period, the student

movement is primarily a propaganda movement for the propagation of national democracy, KM pointed out.

The underground youth organization also stressed that armed struggle is the principal means to overthrow the regime and achieve national democracy. "Mass movements should always serve to promote and advance the armed struggle."

KM denounced the dual tactics of repression and deception that are employed by the state to preempt mass agitation and unrest. Recently, the regime established fascist youth organization with high-sounding names like KADRE (Kabataan para sa Demokratikong Rebolusyon), BAYAN (Bagong Kamalayan) and even a pseudo KM (Katipunang Makabayan) in addition to its youth mass organization, the Kabataang Barangay. The education and defense ministries have also mounted dialogues to throw cold water on the militant student movement.

However, KM said, "Participation in dialogues can be effective under certain conditions that the students can turn the table against the enemy during negotiations." It should be seen as a tactic that is "supplementary and subordinate to the task of further advancing the mass movement." It is also a tactic by which students can take advantage of splits within the regime and gain more concessions.

KM called on its more than 6,000 members to deepen their grasp and understanding of the national democratic line through diligent study, regular discussion, integration with the worker and peasant masses and through the support and promotion of armed struggle. ▲



# SPARKS

## NPA's KILL 14 IN BICOL AMBUSH

A 50-man unit of the New People's Army killed 14 Marcos troopers in an ambush in Bato, Camarines Sur last Dec. 24. It was the biggest NPA offensive launched in the province for the entire year.

The troopers were loaded in a truck headed for barangay Laganap when they were fired upon by the guerillas. A 45-minute gunbattle ensued which left dead all but two of the 16 PC soldiers and Civilian Home Defense Force (CHDF) members. There were no casualties on the side of the people's army.

The Red fighters left the scene with two M-16 armalite rifles, one Browning automatic rifle, two Garand rifles and an automatic carbine belonging to slain enemy troopers.

The NPA victory prompted the local PC commander to send to Bato and surrounding towns the 52nd Battalion which was trained in terrorist tactics in Samar.

## Partisans Punish Top Intelligence Agent

A sparrow unit of the New People's Army killed Tech. Sgt. George Giray, a top intelligence operative in Samar, last Dec. 31 in Catbalogan, Western Samar.

As the notorious intelligence agent was about to start his motorcycle, a partisan shot him twice in the back. Another partisan walked up to him and pumped three more bullets into his chest.

"Killer George" was dead. "At last!" people who knew him rejoiced.

It was 7 p.m., the eve of New Year's at the corner of del Rosario St. and Curry Ave., a busy intersection near the pier and only a hundred meters away from the police headquarters in the heart of Catbalogan.

The operation was so swift, it caught policemen and intelligence agents at the nearby police station flatfooted. No one gave chase as the partisans calmly left the scene.

Giray was responsible for the murder of Arnulfo Ortiz, a student activist, in the early years of martial rule. He participated in the torture and massacre of many other civilians, especially in Calbiga, Western Samar in 1974-75. He was also a known extortionist.

Two days after the incident, a Samareño businessman remarked, "In 1972, Giray arrested by brother-in-law and broke his fingers under interrogation. Now they are even."

## RED FIGHTERS RAID SAMAR FIRM

NPA guerillas raided last Dec. 12 the equipment depot of San Jose Timber Corp. in Canabis, Motiong, Northern Samar. This is the same logging company whose armed guards were responsible for the massacre of 42 civilians in barrio Sag-od, Las Navas, that province last Sept. 15.

The Red fighters swooped down on the depot and killed four armed security guards in the ensuing firefight. The company surrendered after an hour's exchange of gunfire.

The San Jose Timber Corp. is owned by Defense Minister Juan Ponce Enrile with some retired AFP generals and government officials. Guarding the company's huge forest concession is the Special Forces which belongs to the Special Warfare Brigade (SWaB) of the fascist army. The concession includes the site of the recent massacre.

The raid yielded seven M-16 armalite rifles, more than 800 rounds of ammunition, one rifle grenade and other military

equipment for the people's army. Several million pesos worth of the company's equipment was also confiscated.

## RALLY HITS DESTRUCTIVE NUCLEAR POWER

Anti-nuclear activists demonstrated in front of the Philippine Atomic Energy Commission (PAEC) office in Diliman, Quezon City last Dec. 7 to protest against harmful nuclear technology and facilities.

The protest action, sponsored by the Nuclear-Free Philippines Coalition (NFPC), was staged in time with the celebration of Atomic Week by the regime's PAEC.

In a manifesto, the coalition bewailed the incapacity of the PAEC to ensure the safety of nuclear power being introduced in the country, particularly with regard to the construction of the controversial Bataan nuclear power plant.

The NFPC pointed out that since PAEC is under the Ministry of Energy, it cannot judge and decide independently of the interests of the ministry which was itself ordered to put up the Bataan plant.

The coalition further expressed doubts about the PAEC's regulatory power considering that the deputy minister of energy, Gabriel Itchon, is president of the National Power Corp. (NPC), owner of the Bataan nuclear plant. (BMP)

## LABOR LEADERS TO ENRILE: PROMISES, PROMISES . . .

Defense Minister Juan Ponce Enrile talked last Dec. 23 with leading labor leaders and representatives of the labor ministry on the harassment of workers.

After the two-hour dialogue, Enrile promised the workers that the military will not intervene in any picket or strike unless violence erupts, there is an imminent threat to life or property, there is a court order, or a request was made by the labor ministry.

The dialogue was brought about by a campaign of the Kilusang Mayo Uno (KMU) which had earlier denounced the mass arrest of the labor leaders by the military. The labor center has launched rallies and symposia and, on Dec. 12, picketed the office of Enrile.

## BATANGAS NPA's PUNISH 2 TROOPERS

Two fascist troopers belonging to the Constabulary Highway Patrol Group (CHPG) team in Kumintang, Batangas, were meted the death penalty by the New People's Army (NPA) last Oct. 3.

According to KALATAS, mass paper in the Southern Tagalog region, the two military men were often abusive and extorted money from jeepney drivers and small businessmen in the area. When the NPA heard of these misdeeds, they immediately planned an operation and organized a sparrow unit.

The Red fighters caught the two fascists in the act of extorting and forcibly halting vehicles, pointing their weapons at people. After positioning themselves, the people's guerillas shot one CHPG element who was inside a car and the other who was standing outside of it.

The Red fighters also confiscated a .45 caliber pistol, a .38 caliber revolver and many bullets.

After talking to the people about the two military men's crimes and explaining the goals of the revolutionary movement, the NPAs bade farewell to the gladdened drivers and passengers.





## A visit to the Palace

By GEORGE MONTES

January 3. The Feast of the Three Kings. And a royal day it was going to be, too. Only the day before, I got a frantic call from the secretary of the Film Academy informing me that we moviepeople were going to have a meeting with the First Lady of the land.

"Emergency meeting," she said.

"What about?" I asked.

"Naturally, about the MIFF," she answered.

I got miffed. "What? What are you talking about? . . . Oh, I see. That's the acronym for the Manila International Film Festival . . . Well, OK."

Before I knew it, I and scores of others were rounded up in buses bound for the Palace. The air inside the bus reeked with the varied scents of perfume, cologne and tobacco. Everybody was greeting everybody else cheek to cheek, just close enough so the make-up wouldn't rub off. Everybody was asking everybody else: what is **she** going to tell us?

"Maybe we will be issued season passes for the festival."

"Perhaps we will be assigned as ushers and usherettes to escort Brooke Shields and Charlton Heston around."

"Me, I'd settle for one of those full-color calendars where Ma'm and Sir are regally posed for the camera. It's a six-year calendar, you know."

Soon, we were at the Palace gates. After the routine frisking by the guards who made sure we didn't carry any sharp metal objects in our person, we were ushered into a heavily-carpeted corridor leading to Heroes' Hall. About a thousand people were streaming into the hall: directors, actors, producers,

editors, writers, designers, legmen, cinematographers. The scent of more cologne, perfume and smoke filled the air, only this time scrumptious food odors also wafted into the room from the parade of silver pans and dishes which surrounded the vast hall.

I couldn't believe it. I was actually inside the Palace!

Fifteen minutes pass. "She'll be coming any minute now. Please remain in your seats," a voice admonished. Thirty minutes pass. We make small talk: What's your latest film? what really happened to Alfie?

Forty-five minutes had already elapsed. More small talk: have they found Tommy? who is Joey's latest girlfriend? pahingi pa nga ng juice.

A full hour had passed. Hindi bale, sanay naman tayo sa hintayan. Parang sa set ng pelikula. I remain in my seat and continue sipping my juice.

An hour and a half passed. Then, there was a stir as a well modulated voice announced over the microphone, "Ladies and gentlemen, the First Lady of the Philippines, the Governor of Metro Manila, the Minister of Human Settlements, Madame Imelda Romualdez Marcos!" Everybody stood up and there was complete silence. "Please be seated," the voice coaxed.

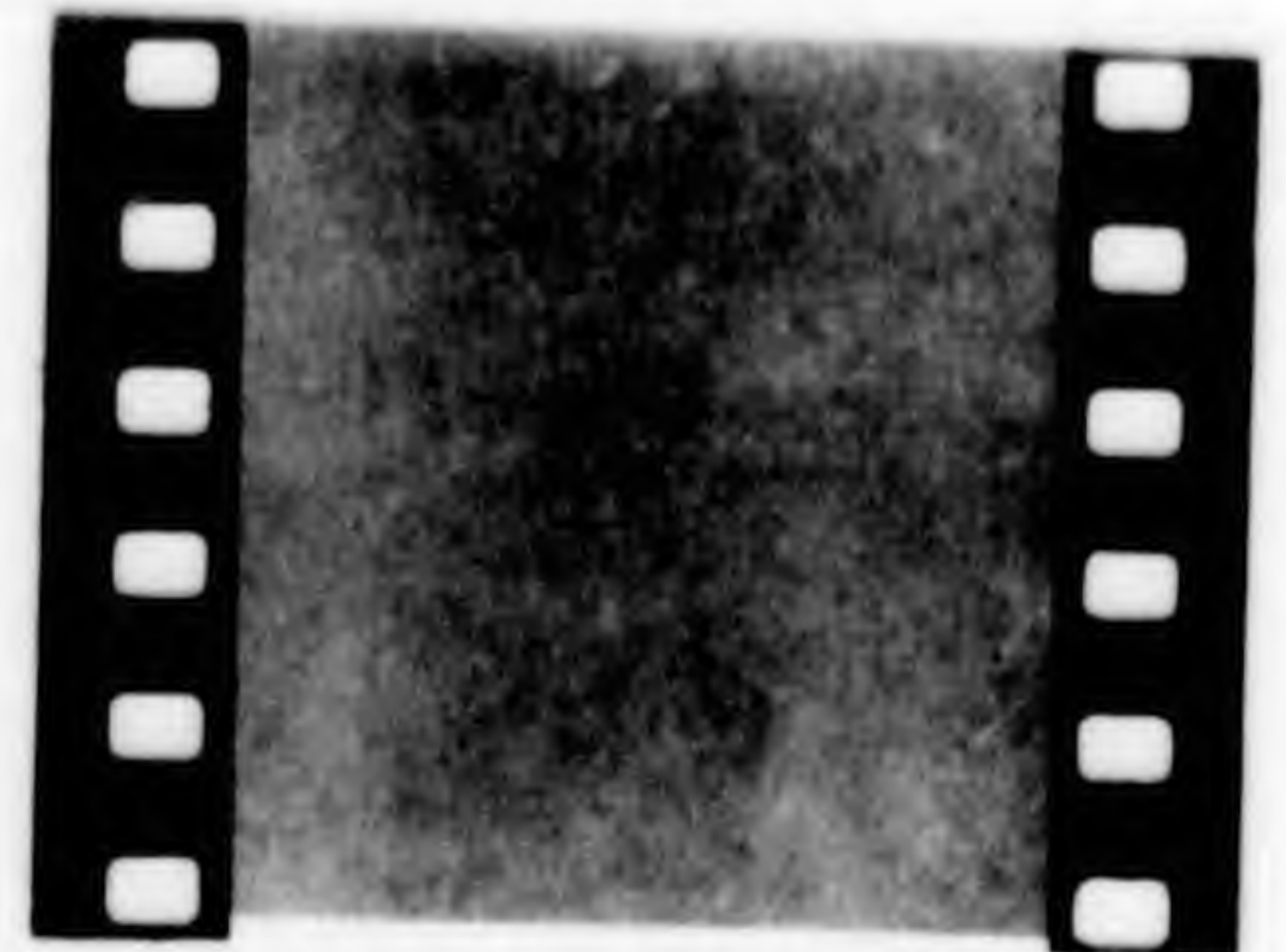
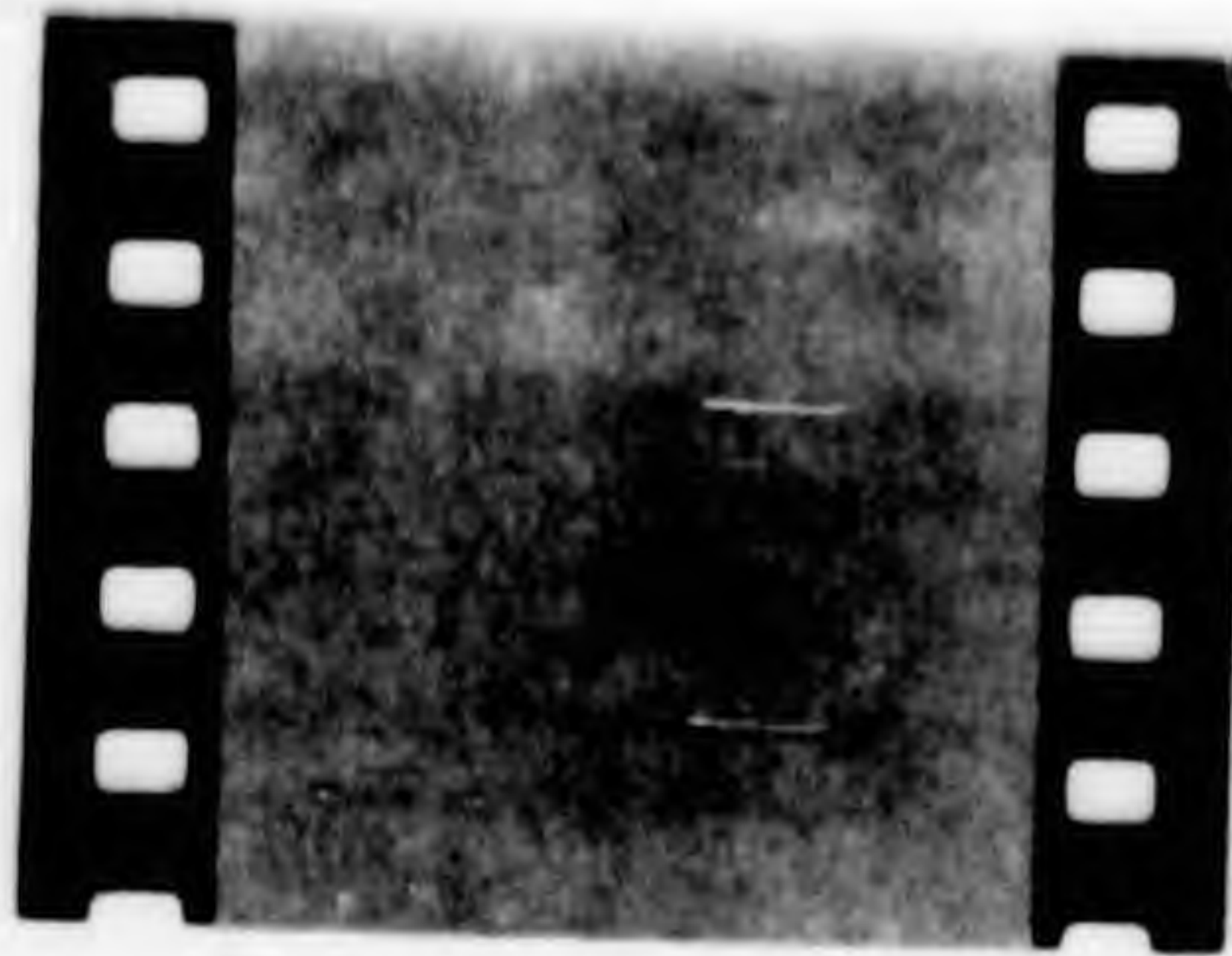
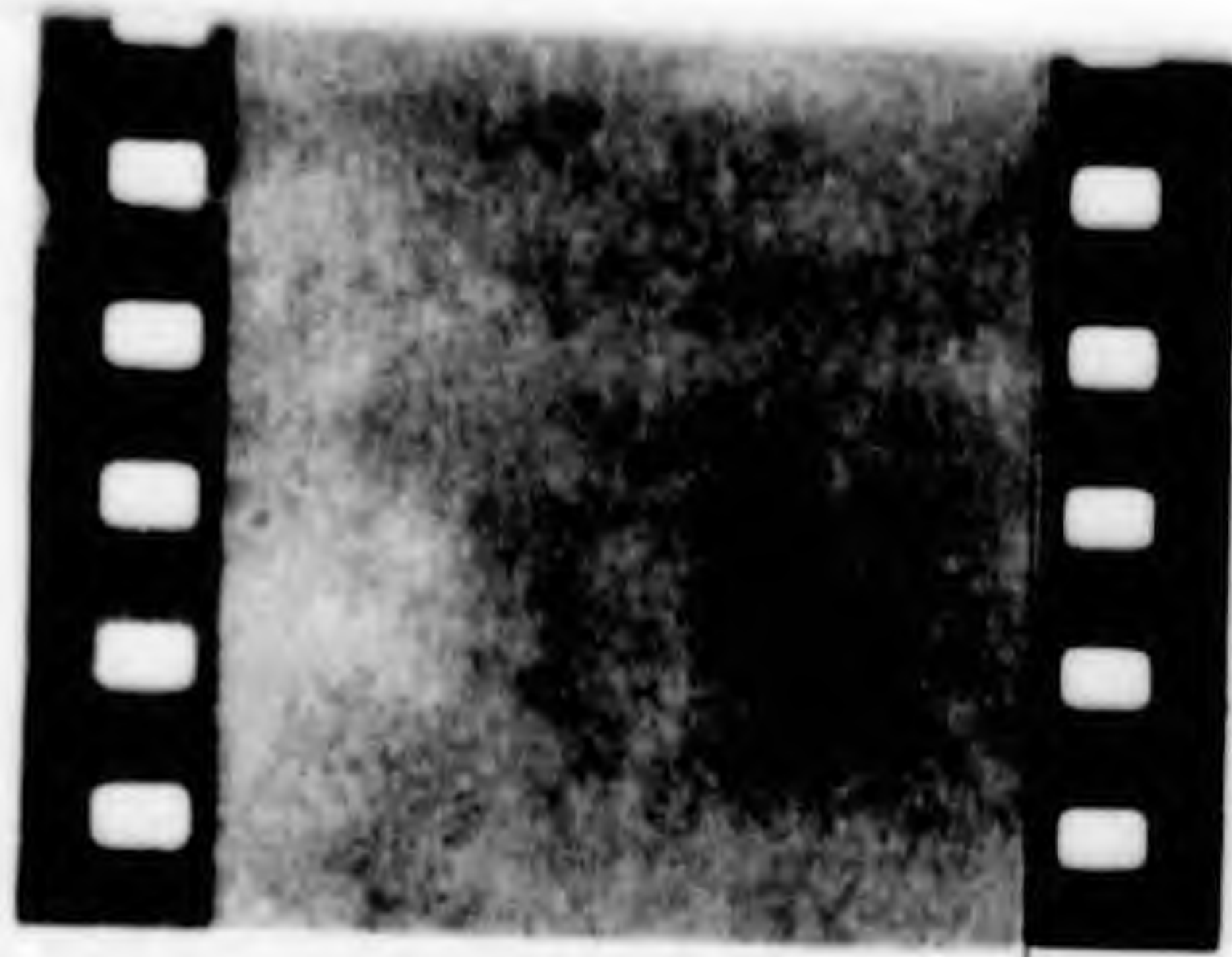
And there she was, the First Lady herself. I couldn't take my eyes off her. She's too good to be true, she's so beautiful!

Little did I know that I was going to hear the same three adjectives over and over again for the next hour. We were told again and again to be true, good and beautiful in making films. These three words were to guide us in our craft and no way could we go wrong with these three commandments.

I ran through my memory file of great films and pitted them against







these three commandments. Was "Gone with the Wind" true? Why, any fictionalized work might fail this crucial first test. But what is truth, anyway? As if reading my thoughts, Ma'm said, as a tear threatened to fall down from each of her eyes, "It is not true that Tondo is poor, so stop sending films abroad that depict any part of the country as squalid and miserable because that is not true at all. Art should reflect the majority of our present state of affairs, which is rich. Hilda would look better in an affluent background."

In pondered what she said. Come to think of it, she's right. I don't see any slum areas, only white fences. Then came more guidelines. Villains are out, they are evil and bad. Homosexuals and prostitutes roaming the sidewalks of Mabini? That's not true and that's no good for our image.

I must have been so engrossed in my thoughts because suddenly the First Lady wasn't making any sense at all to me. She said that she and the President were very distressed at the rumors going around about her children. She said that intellectually, her children were adequate but that emotionally, they were ten-year-olds. The palace was not an ideal place for children to grow in.

"What is she talking about?" I asked the fellow seated next to me.

"It has to do with the kidnaping," he whispered.

"What kidnaping?" I asked.

"Of Tommy," was the answer.

"Tommy Abuel?" I was getting more and more confused.

"No stupid, Manotoc." I was completely lost. What did that have to do with the Festival? I did not know that the kidnaping of Tommy was to hog the limelight in the next few days.

Then she drifted back to the prepa-

rations for the filmfest. The Pampanga capiz christmas lanterns were to stay put until Jan. 29, the Chinese new year and the closing of the MIFF. We were going to play host and were instructed to put our best foot forward. Now, if any of those pesky foreign correspondents were to ask us any of the "seven ugly questions," we were to answer in a manner like this:

Q: Where did you get the money to spend for the building of the Film Palace?

A: Don't call it a Palace. There's only one palace, Malacañang. This one is the Manila Film Center. No, the money was not taken from government coffers but from individual contributions. Generous individuals like Don Lucio (Tan) and Don Jaime (Zobel). Don Andres (Soriano) has not been so generous lately, he'd better watch out or he'll be drinking Beerhausen instead.

Q: Is it true that the festival is being used for the aggrandizement of the Marcoses?

**"For more than 10 years, my work has attempted to represent the situation of oppressors and of the oppressed. For the oppressed in Manila, I can do little except telling them that their suffering concerns me.**

**"But I protest emphatically against the use of my filmic work as a figleaf by their oppressors. To show my film in a festival house that rests upon the bodies of 30 dead construction workers seem to me a derision. I therefore forbid the showing of my film in Manila"**

**- Statement of German director Helma Sanders who withdrew her film Die Beruehrte (No Mercy, No Future) from the Manila International Filmfest.**

A: Oh, that's not true. That's not good. And that's not beautiful. The Festival is for Asians, for the Filipinos. We will become the Film Center for Asia and our films will at least break into the international market. Lito (Lapid) and Guy (Nora Aunor) will now be international stars. Ramon (Revilla) will make waves in Moscow and Lorna (Tolentino) will give Bo (Derek) a run for her money. That's for us, for everybody!

Q: How are you going to pay back your loans, the expenses incurred during the Festival?

A: We'll find a way. This is a business venture. People won't lend us money if the project is not viable.

Q: Do the majority of the people support this project?

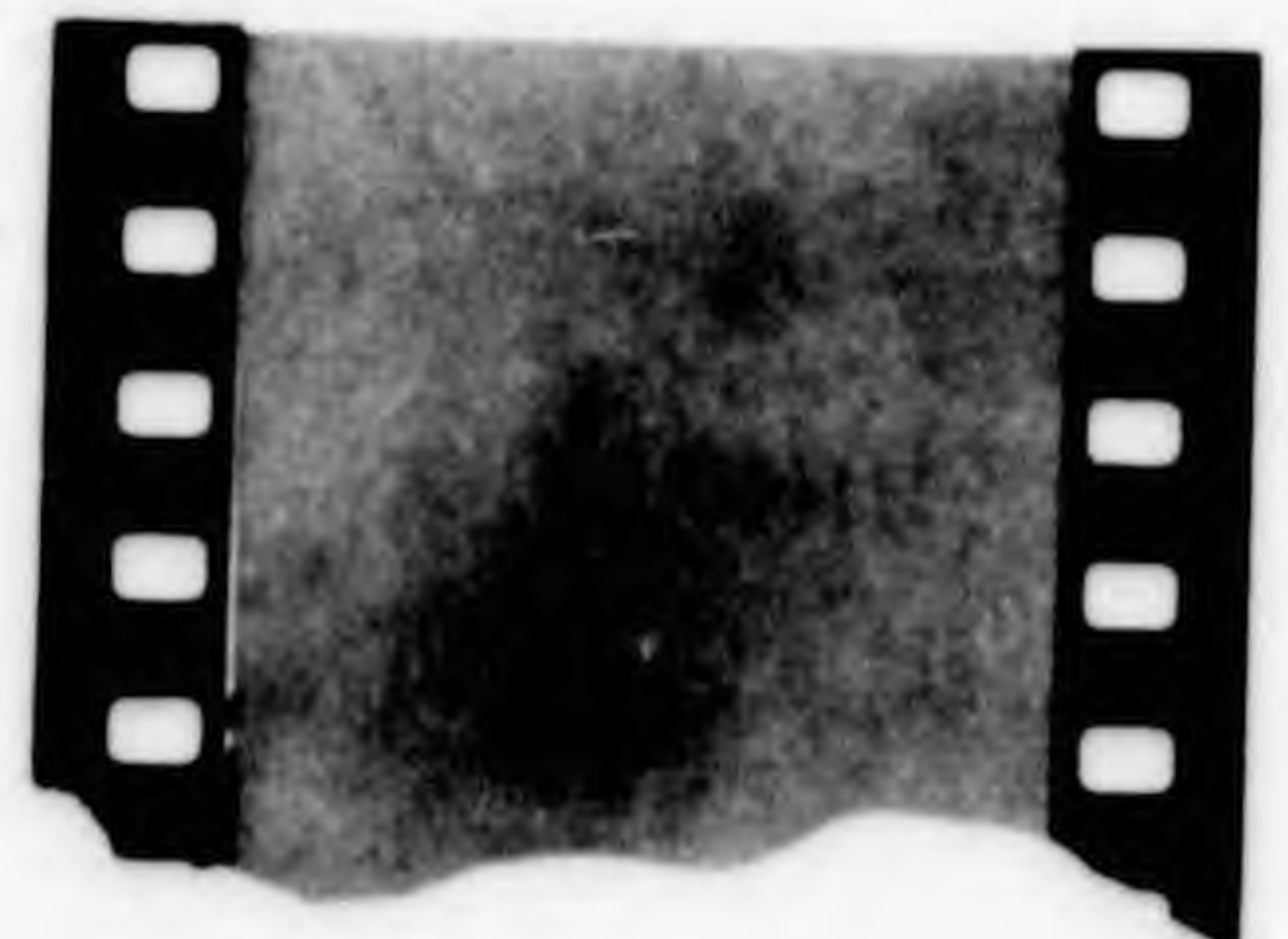
A: Ask the actors, the directors and the producers. They'll all say yes, won't you?

At this point, the whole assembly yelled out a roaring yes. Nice. If we said no, merienda won't be served. We had to say yes.

Before I knew it, the afternoon was over. No, we didn't get season passes for the filmfest and we were not assigned as ushers. No six-year calendars were given, only that juicy bit of information that if the Madame had not eloped with His Excellency on the day that she was to sign her film contract with Doc Perez of Sampaguita Pictures, she could be a superstar now.

But who cares? ▲

(Editor's note: This is a first-hand account by Liberation contributor George Montes of the briefing given by the First Lady to the members of the film industry on her latest showcase project, the Manila International Film Festival or MIFF. Montes is connected with the movie world.)





# Alay sa isang kaibigan

Huwag kang magpaalam.  
Ang agwat ng mga bundok sa Davao  
at ng kagubatan ng Zambales  
Ay dampi lamang ng palad  
Sa lumiliyab na dibdib.  
At ang lupang kinatitirikan  
Ng kubong naging saksi sa pagdaloy  
ng dugo mo'y  
Kasingkulay ng mga bukirin  
Kahit saan sa ating daigdig  
Sa tagtuyot kapag nagniningning  
ang araro sa araw  
Sa tag-ulan kapag nakasingkaw  
Ang kalabaw sa bakal at lubid

At sa buong panahon ng taggutom  
Nakatiwangwang ang lupang  
Ginuguhitan ng mga batang paslit –  
Mga batang nagtatanong  
Kung bakit isinilang pa sila  
sa kanilang daigdig.  
Iyon ang hinangad mong sagutin  
Subalit ang sagot ay namumutawi rin  
Sa labi ng baril  
Upang mamulaklak sa ugat ng isip  
Dumaloy sa lupang  
Ginuguhitan ng mga batang paslit.  
Huwag nang magpaalam.  
Ang lupang ikinumot sa humandusay mong katawan  
Ay patunay na kahit saan  
Marami kang kapatid  
At ang bala sa malamig mong dibdib  
Ay apoy sa puso naming  
Iyong ginising.

Si Jacinto "Jack" Peña ay isang rebolusyonaryong propagandista.  
Naging aktibo siya sa mga pahayagan ng kilusang lihim mula pa  
noong istudyante siya sa Unibersidad ng Pilipinas. Pinaslang si  
Jack ng militar noong Nob. 11, 1978 sa Gattaran, Cagayan.







# Mum is the word

Who kidnapped Tommy Manotoc? His second bride, Imee Marcos, is not saying whodunit. And his second mother-in-law, is not saying either. Mum is the word.

Young warlord Jackie Ponce Enrile again went on a warpath when his sister, Katrina, was slapped by her boyfriend Alfie Anido at a party. Anido met his fate before the barrel of a gun. Like his father, Jackie abhors violence.

Tommy Manotoc (we hope not) and Alfie Anido are gone. They're the latest contributions of the Marcoses and the Enriles to the New Republic's Population Disposal Program.

In a meeting of a Chinese association, the speaker had a novel way of introducing the protrait of Mao on his left and that of Marcos on his right. Said he: "On my left is the Great Lover of the Masses; on my right is the Great Robber of the Masses."

Our favorite mailman, Tambo, reports that the Post Office is thinking of withdrawing all Marcos stamps. People are spitting on the wrong side.

As Imelda toured her foreign guests around the art gallery in Malacañang, they marveled at her wide knowledge of art. "Did you acquire any formal art education?" a guest asked. "Oh, yes," a flattered Imelda replied. "At Toulouse." (Tolosa in Waray).

One day, Enrile was taking a stroll at Luneta Park when suddenly he heard a voice.

"Hey, Enrile! Would you get me a horse. I'm so tired of standing here. I want to take a ride around the park."

Enrile curiously glanced around. To his astonishment, he saw Rizal's monument talking to him. Quickly, he ran to Malacañang to report the hair-raising news to Marcos.

Rizal was stone-mad when he saw Enrile return with Marcos. He shouted, "I told you to get me a horse, not an assi!"

Marcos, the representative of the Third World poor, was the only head of state who brought a fully-furnished private jet plane to the summit meeting in Cancun, Mexico. He's a poor jetsetter.

The dictator's daughter, Imee, was gifted with a calendar by her Kriss Kringle in law school. Attached was a card which read: "Here's something to count your days by..."

Attention: Richard Allen, erstwhile US national security adviser. PR man wanted in Asia. Credentials needed: Ability to solicit interviews from foreign magazines for publicity-seeking client. Must be good in wheedling money and jewelry. Seiko watches will do.

Apply at 152 J.P. Laurel St., San Miguel, Manila. Ask for Meldy.

British Prime Minister Margaret would rather pay attention to dog-trussing and dog-eating in the Philippines than to the human hunger strikers in Maze Prison.

Is the Lady barking up the wrong tree? She's going to the dogs!

Enrile recently announced that the Communist Party designated a priest to represent it at the Communist International (Comintern). For his information, the Comintern was dissolved by Stalin in 1943.

Go back to your history books, Johnny!

I Was the Last Man out of Bataan is the latest book of Carlos P. Romulo. The little general is right. Filipino guerillas left him behind to his brother Americans when they fled to the mountains. They thought he was a rat.

In Haciendas San Antonio and Sta. Isabel in Cagayan Valley, there are two brownouts when the 8 p.m. curfew starts. The brownout of lights and the brownout of chickens, pigs and even dogs - to security guards and military men.



JANUARY 1982 LIBERATION