

FFP U P I D A T I E

An occasional newsletter of the Friends of the Filipino People

May 1982

EXTRADITION TREATY: U.S.-MARCOS JOINT EFFORT

The Reagan Administration has drafted an Extradition treaty with the Marcos regime that is clearly a tool to harass, intimidate, and persecute Philippine political dissidents in the U.S.. The proposed U.S.-Marcos treaty must be ratified by 2/3 of the Senate to be implemented. The treaty would remove the authority to decide on "political offenses" from the courts and place it in the jurisdiction of the State Dept. If approved, the treaty places in jeopardy the lives and liberty of those opposed to the Marcos regime.

While the treaty awaits ratification of the Senate (and passage through the Senate Foreign Relations Committee), the U.S. Congress is also considering the Extradition Act of 1981. This act is the umbrella body of laws upon which a treaty will be based. It contains provisions similar to those of the U.S.-R.P. Treaty and is a drastic change from the present laws.

ACTION:

Write the Senate Foreign Relations Comm. asking it to reject the treaty. Write

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especially to the Chairperson of the Committee, Sen Charles Percy, who has promised public hearings on the treaty. Write letters to the editor of your local newspaper.

Call or write the Alliance for Philippine Concerns for updates on the treaty at 110 Maryland Ave. N.E. 20002 Wash. D.C.

HUMAN RIGHTS

Arrests, torture, and salvaging (extraction of information and murder) continue unabated in the Philippines. In a renewed crackdown, church youth leaders, students and farmers are the victims. The Task Force Detainees of the Assoc. of Major Religious Superiors has reported that 23 people arrested on Feb. 26-27 and 5 others arrested in Davao on Jan. 16 are undergoing severe torture. Your immediate response is urgently needed for the following persons:

Romilo Villalabos-United Church of Christ
Domino Palma
Rev. Rock Castillo-United Church of Christ
Laura Ocampo, Ave Enrile, Violeta Marasigan, and Belen Diaz Flores of the National Council of Churches/Phil.
Other known cases of torture are: Manuel D. Guzman, Arturo Tabara, Rogelio Aberca, Alfredo Mansos, Edwin Tulalian, Joseph Olayer, Danilo de la Fuente.

ACTION:

Please pressure for immediate end of torture and the release of prisoners. Write to:

Minister Juan Ponce Enrile
Minister of National Defense,
Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City, Philippines

Please send copies of your letters to Friends of the Filipino People at above address.

STRATEGIC HAMLETS

The Philippine military has begun a process of "strategic hamletting", a policy reminiscent of U.S. military operations in Viet Nam. The Philippine military, financed, armed, and advised by the U.S., is forcing people into what they call hamlet sectors of small towns and villages. The town of Laak, located in the province of Davao del Norte in Mindanao, is the model for this operation. There over 30,000 people in 29 barrios have been subjected to this policy. Church officials have revealed that this policy is also a strategy to gain control of the land. As the land is vacated, it is planted with crops that serve as raw materials for paper mills and fruit companies. Philippine government officials claim the policy has been stepped due to international pressure, but to date, there is no evidence of this.

ACTION:

Write to the Defense minister urging an end to this violation of human rights. The address is:

Minister Juan Ponce Enrile
Ministry of National Defense
Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City, Phil.

LABOR SUPPORT

FFP is currently sponsoring the international tour of Ernesto Arellano, the Sec. General of the Kilusang Mayo Uno. The KMU is the 250,000 member alliance of 6 labor federations including mining, sugar, and industrial workers. The purpose of the tour is to educate rank and file union membership in the U.S., Canada, and Europe on the struggle of the Philippine worker, the role of U.S. multi-nationals, and to develop support for the labor movement in the Philippines. FFP also sponsored Fr. Edgar Sagunson in several cities, the national chairperson of the National Federation of Sugar Workers. The 30,000 member union is currently striking the La Carlota sugar mill in Negros Occidental.

ACTION:

Send telegrams and letters of support to:

Bert Olalia, Chair

Kilusang Mayo Uno, 561 Shaw Blvd.

David II Bldg. 4th Floor, Mandaluyong
Manila, Philippines

To support the strike by the sugar workers send messages to:

National Federation of Sugar Workers
6 Ampola St.

Bacolod City, Philippines

NUCLEAR WEAPONS CAMPAIGN/U.N SPECIAL SESSION ON DISARMAMENT.

The Friends of the Filipino People is currently conducting a petition campaign to remove nuclear weapons from the Philippines. This is a part of our long-standing campaign to remove U.S. military Bases from the country, but our focus is the storage of nuclear weapons there. The Coalition for a Nuclear Free Philip. will send representatives to the June 12 March on New York and FFP has a target of 2,000 names on our petitions. FFP will join the representatives from the coalition and invite you to join us in New York.

ACTION:

Help us with our petition campaign. If you would like copies of the petition, please write and request whatever number you need.

PHILIPPINE WOMEN'S DEMONSTRATION SUPPRESSED.

The first Women's Peace Festival with the theme "Equality, Development, Peace" was stopped by the Philippine dictatorship of Ferdinand Marcos. On March 7, thousands of women, mostly from the rural areas, arrived at the Folk Arts grounds in Manila only to find that the approval they had received for the event was rescinded. The Women's Day commemoration was to have featured talks by Justice Cecilia Munoz Palma, Dr. Irene Cortez, Sr. John Manansan, Sen. Lorenzo Tanada, and others. The 20,000 participants came were to hear poems, songs, and cultural presentations on the arms race and nuclear weapons.

ACTION:

All individuals and groups supportive of peace and disarmament should protest

the suppression of the Women's movement for peace in the Philippines.

Write to:

Pres. Ferdinand Marcos
Malacanang Palace, Manila
Philippines.

FFP NATIONAL CONFERENCE

The ninth annual conference of the Friends of the Filipino People will be held this year at the Sister's of Good Shepherd in Peekskill, N.Y. The 3 day event will be held July 3-5 and will have guest speakers, workshops, and cultural events that set the pace for FFP for the coming year. A major focus will be support of the Philippine labor movement. Plan ahead and be sure to write to FFP for more details on the cost for the three days. It is most reasonable, so we hope to see you there.

FLASH- Key leaders of the resistance in the Philippines have been arrested on April 21. Please send urgent telegrams of protest today demanding the release and an end to torture of the following:

- Fr. Ed de la Torre, released 2 yrs. ago after many years of detention
- Jerry Bulatao, formerly with the Assoc. of Major Religious Superiors.
- "Boy" Morales, former gov. official "defector" to the National Democ. Front
- Antonio Moncupa, for whom severe torture is feared and whose brother disappeared while searching for him.

Please write immediately to:

Juan Ponce Enrile, Minister of Defense
Ministry of National Defense
Camp Aguinaldo, Manila, Philippines

THE FRIENDS OF THE FILIPINO PEOPLE FOUR POINTS OF UNITY

1. We seek an end to U.S. support of the Marcos regime.
2. We seek an end to U.S. military and political intervention in the Philippines.
3. We condemn the long-standing domination of the Philippine economy by the U.S. corporations which has been a major cause of continued poverty and underdevelopment.
4. We support the Filipino people in their efforts to secure full independence and freedom in their country and social and economic justice in the U.S.

I agree with the four points of unity and would like to join or renew as a member of the Friends of the Filipino People

___ Basic Membership, \$5.00 ___ Supporting Member, \$10.00

___ Check here if renewal ___ My contribution of \$ ___

Name _____

Address _____

State and Zip _____

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