

1 way by World Bank / IMF

Protest World Bank Support for Dictators

ASIA COLLECTION
UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII LIBRARY

PICKET AT WORLD BANK

OCTOBER 4, 1976

AT 11:30 A.M.

1818 H Street, N.W.

Dictatorships notorious for their violations of human rights, including India, Indonesia, Brazil, South Korea and the Philippines, head the list of loan recipients from the World Bank for 1976.

Of these repressive governments, the Philippines has seen the most dramatic increase in its borrowings from the Bank over the last few years. Since Ferdinand E. Marcos declared martial law in September of 1972, Bank loans have jumped by a phenomenal 80 percent.

The World Bank has chosen to hold its 1976 annual meeting, from October 4 to 8, in Manila, thus graphically illustrating its unholy alliance with the Marcos dictatorship. Marcos portrays the choice of Manila as a "concrete manifestation of its recognition by the international financial community as a financial center of this region." He neglects to mention, however, the tremendous expense the Philippine government has incurred to attract the meeting to Manila, including:

- 1.1 billion pesos in hotel-construction project
- purchases of Mercedes Benzes to provide for each of the 5000-plus delegates;
- construction of a new convention-center complex just for the occasion.

THE WORLD BANK AND THE FILIPINO PEOPLE

Such extravagant hospitality does not reflect the feelings of the majority of Filipinos regarding Bank presence in the Philippines. They do not, like Marcos, welcome it with open arms. In September of this year on the occasion of the fourth anniversary of martial law, Concerned Citizens for Freedom and Justice, an organization of clergy and lay Filipinos, issued a statement calling for the rejection of the impositions of the IMF and the World Bank on the Philippine economy. Moreover, the so-called "beneficiaries" of two of the major Bank-funded projects in the Philippines—the Chico Dam Project and the Tondo Foreshoreland Dagatdagatan Development Project—have militantly resisted the Bank-imposed plans for rural "uplift" and urban "upgrading."

**The Chico Dam would demolish 15 large villages of two national minorities, the Kalinga and Bonto, flooding their ancestral lands and dislocating some 100,000 tribespeople. Last April 17 the Kalinga prevented on two occasions and in the presence of Philippine Constabulary soldiers the unloading of construction materials at the damsite by sitting in the paths of the dumptrucks.

**The Tondo Project would destroy the dwellings of more than 80,000 slum dwellers to make way for a container port and commercial complex, without providing human relocation within their means and near their places of work. Moreover, the "squatters" have been barred from participation in the planning and implementation of this and other projects which profoundly affect their lives.

Stop Feeding The Monster



The squatter organization in Tondo declared:

No Filipino is a squatter in his own country; if there is any at all, it is the aliens who take advantage of us and claim large tracts of land; let us strengthen our unity and our opposition for the right to live, because, as true Filipinos, it is our right to own a piece of land on which we can build our homes . . .

The Bank-Marcos version of "development," imposed from above and designed merely to contain discontent, can never satisfy the genuine aspirations of the Filipino people. Clearly, it is the Marcos dictatorship which is hosting the annual Bank-Fund meeting and not the Filipino people.

THE U.S. AND THE WORLD BANK

While World Bank aid to Marcos has been increasing at an alarming rate since martial law began, official U.S. government assistance has been declining. These opposing trends are not merely coincidental. Ever since

a U.S. government report proposed in 1970 that aid funds be routed more and more through multi-government channels rather than given on a country-to-country basis, the U.S. State Department has been exerting its powerful influence in the Bank to ensure that it favor U.S. friends like Marcos as much as possible.

What is the extent of U.S. influence in the Bank? The U.S. contributes 25.69 percent to the total subscription of the Bank. U.S. citizens occupy 41.2 percent of top management positions. The Bank President is always an American citizen.

During this period when the American public and the Congress are moving to curtail foreign assistance to regimes which consistently violate the human rights of their citizens, the State Department's strategy would serve to circumvent these pressures. Indeed, the World Bank is another instrument of support for corrupt and repressive dictatorships like that of Ferdinand E. Marcos.

WE DENOUNCE THE WORLD BANK-IMF CONFERENCE IN MANILA.

WE DENOUNCE THE USE OF THE WORLD BANK AS AN INSTRUMENT OF U.S. FOREIGN POLICY.

WE DENOUNCE ESCALATING WORLD BANK LOANS TO CORRUPT AND REPRESSIVE DICTATORSHIPS.

WE DEMAND THE SUSPENSION OF LOANS TO THESE DICTATORSHIPS.

WE DEMAND THAT CONGRESS VOTE AGAINST FURTHER WORLD BANK LOANS TO THE REPRESSIVE MARCOS GOVERNMENT.

For further information call Severina Rivera
202-543-1517
Friends of the Filipino People and
Anti-Martial Law Coalition (Philippines)

THE ANTI-MARTIAL LAW COALITION (PHILIPPINES)

- FILIPINOS FOR NATIONAL DEMOCRACY (PPD) • FRIENDS OF THE FILIPINO PEOPLE (FFP) •
- NATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR THE RESTORATION OF CIVIL LIBERTIES IN THE PHILIPPINES (NCRCLP) •
- PHILIPPINE INFORMATION BULLETIN (PIB) • PHILIPPINE RESEARCH CENTER (PRC) •
- UNION OF DEMOCRATIC FILIPINOS (KDP) •

October 8, 1976

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

In solidarity with the thousands of militant demonstrators who marched in the streets of Manila last October 4th to protest the glaring collusion between the World Bank and the Marcos dictatorship, the Anti-Martial Law Coalition (Philippines) staged a simultaneous picket in front of the World Bank building in Washington D.C. The 1976 Annual Conference of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) was held in Manila October 4th through October 8th.

Some 80 spirited picketers carried placards that spelled out the reality behind another one of the Marcos regime's outrageous stunts: "World Bank Conference - An Extravaganza at the Expense of the Filipino People"; "World Bank/IMF Prop Up the Marcos Dictatorship". Vigorous chants of "Loans for Marcos? No! Democratic rights? Yes!" filled the noonday rush and attracted a number of passersby. The determined and enthusiastic pace of the picket was so catching that some office workers out on their lunch break readily joined in. One thousand leaflets were eagerly consumed within an hour. What was noticeable, however, was the number of

/....

22222222222

Filipino workers from the World Bank itself who stayed on and exchanged ideas with the picketers. One could sense their desire to settle their questions regarding the World Bank Conference. Apparently, the picket proved to be an eye-opener for them.

With a blaring megaphone, the speaker exposed the Conference in Manila as another dubious scheme plotted by the Marcos regime. A total of \$440 million had been poured into hotel construction projects, the construction of a new convention center, the purchase of 200 Mercedes Benz cars and other lavish treats for the 5,000 delegates. The speaker lambasted this unrestrained spending in the midst of a hideous 55% inflation that has left millions of Filipinos in economic squalor.

Why is Ferdinand Marcos playing such a dutiful host for this Conference? The speaker cited the fact that the World Bank and the IMF, with the cooperation of Marcos and his technocrats, have mapped out so-called development projects for the Philippine economy. This joint venture is an effort to contain the growing discontent over a deteriorating economy and provide for a semblance of prosperity. The only beneficiaries to these overly acclaimed projects are Marcos a handful of Filipino business giants and American and Japanese enterprises. For example, the World Bank-funded Tondo Foreshoreland Development project would destroy the dwellings of more than 80,000 slum dwellers to make way for a container port and commercial complex without providing for human relocation within the means of the

/....

3333333333

slumdwellers.

Majority of the Americans who stopped by to watch the picket nodded their heads in agreement when the chanters demanded that there should be no more U.S. aid nor World Bank loans to repressive regimes. This year, because of pressure from the American public, U.S. Congress passed the Human Rights Amendment which curtails U.S. aid to dictatorships. However, the U.S. government is circumventing this Amendment by channeling their aid to dictatorships through international agencies like the World Bank and the IMF. World Bank loans to the Marcos regime have jumped by a phenomenal 1100% since the declaration of martial law. The picketers defiantly denounced the use of the World Bank as an instrument of U.S. foreign policy.

Severina Rivera, press spokesperson for the activity, pointed out the significance of the Coalition's effort: "The World Bank is gravely distressed by this picket. It is an indication that more and more people are realizing the role of the World Bank in supporting repressive regimes. Last spring, a number of prominent citizens including a Board member of the Amnesty International picketed this same building to protest the collusion between the World Bank and the Chilean junta. Today's picket is the second one this time protesting the flood of loans to the Marcos fascist regime."

For verification: Rene Cruz
145 East 27th Street, 4-F
New York, NY 10016 (212) 685-7283