NIU Dup

SIKLAB

Published by the Canada-Philippines Friendship Society (Member of the Anti-Martial Law Coalition) Volume II, No. I January-February 1978

U.S. Military Bases in the Philippines

"WHY THEY MUST BE PULLED OUT!"

What happened in the barrio of Tawog, Bulosan, Sorsogon dramatizes the plot in the long story of the U.S. military bases in the Philippines. The Sorsogon P.C. command was alerted on an alien vessel possibly from Red China that may be unloading weapons for the New People's Army. A Capt. de Mesa led a patrol to check it out. De Mesa did not see any communist. He came face to face with an American commander of a U.S. submarine which was secretly unloading equipment for a new military installation in the barrio. The commander told de Mesa to get out of the way.

The event tells us something about the persistent presence of the U.S. military bases in the Philippines. Ever since the formal establishment of these twenty (20) military bases and installations in 1947, we have always been told, and conditioned to think, that they were built to protect us from "external invasion". U.S. propaganda defined this invasion as massive communist hordes racing to our shores all the way from the Soviet Union or Red China, or even both. Thanks, however, to the U.S. bases, they will be repulsed and our independence will be once more secure. Or so we were told. But if we were to learn from Capt. de Mesa's experience, we should come to the conclusion that there are neither Russians nor people from Red China invading the Philippines, only U.S. submarine commanders.

That the idea of"external menace" is a myth is borne out by statements from the U.S. Defense officials themselves. To cite just one made by the U.S. Defense department in 1972 under congressional questioning, it admitted that "... there is no identifiable conventional source that is likely or capable of invading the Philippines".

There are still some who will insist that the mere presence of the U.S. bases scare China. That is why there is no invasion. Take away the bases and the Philippines is finished. This argument is like the story about the patient who carried a string of dynamites around his waist. When asked about it, he said, "It keeps the lizards away". "But there are no lizards in this place", protested the doctor. The patient replied, "Effective, isn't it?". The dynamites are the U.S. bases. The lizards are the non-existent invaders.

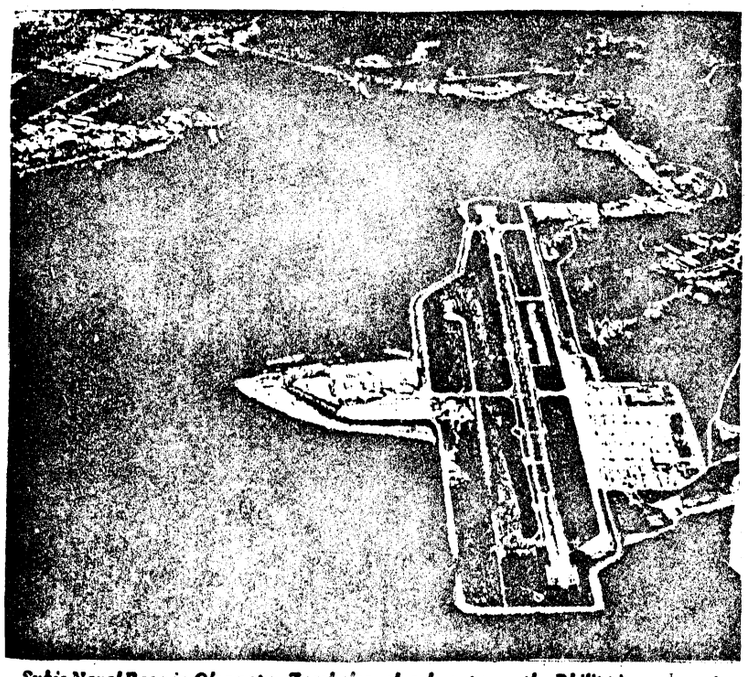
If there has never been a danger of external aggression, why were the U.S. bases installed? While the U.S. bases do not serve a defensive purpose, they have served an offensive purpose. They were used to launch the U.S. forces into the war of aggression against the people of Vietnam. This policy of intervention in Asian affairs is outlined in a secret memorandum issued by the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff far back in September 1945. It read, "The U.S. bases in the Philippines should be considered not merely as outposts but as springboards from which the U.S. Armed Forces may be projected".

The Marcos Regime continues to preserve subservient relationship with the U.S. military. The bases agreement is currently being negotiated. Marcos would like to get a billion dollar contract for the rent of the bases and delivery of miscellaneous military hardware over the next five years. He will use these logistics to continue a policy of repression: arbitrary arrests, military killings, tortures, continued suspension of the writ of habeas corpus, an expendable judiciary, violations of workers' rights, creation of all kinds of refugees, and a genocidal campaign against the Muslins in Mindanao and Sulu.

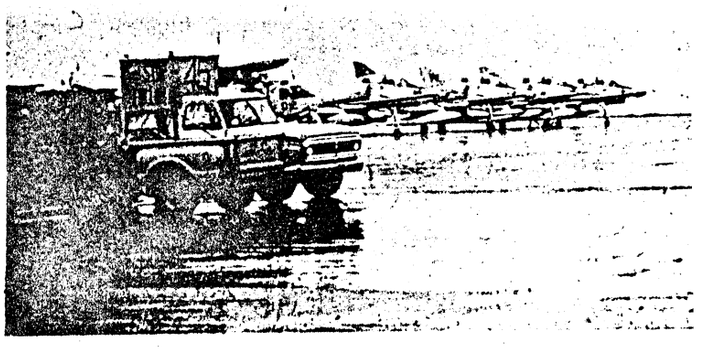
In its so-called Human Rights campaign, the United States has succeeded in supporting a dictatorship which methodically violates human rights. The South Korean and the Marcos Regimes are two examples of how the U.S. military collaborates with little dictators to intimidate the population by violent means in return for bases of dubious value to the Asian people at large. The bases ensure Marcos and his class a continous source of power. Cut off that power and we might yet live to see a real democratic and independent striving towards a self-sufficient nation by Filipinos and for Filipinos.

A final thought to this Bases issue: Clark and Subic Bases harbor nuclear-capable fighter-bombers and ships along with nuclear warheads. In the event of a war between the two world superpowers, these bases serve only to be the prime targets of nuclear fire from one of them. CAN WE SURVIVE A NUCLEAR HOLOCAUST?

It is absolutely necessary that the U.S. Military Bases be withdrawn from Philippine territory, before we, like the patient and his fear of invisible lizards, blow ourselves to pieces.



Subic Naval Base in Olongapo, Zambales, clearly exposes the Philippines to nuclear attack in the event of war between the superpowers.



U.S. Air Force jets parked at Clark Air Base, headquarters of the 13th Air F Clarks' 131,000 acres makes it larger than the combined area of all U.S. bases ou the continental United States [Photo credit: Anti-Martial Law Coalition (Philippin

Official Defects To National Democractic Front

Horacio (Boy) Morales, 34, did not show up at the Ten Outstanding Young Men (TOYM) of the year festivities where he was slated to receive the Public Administration award. Instead, he sent a statement explaining his absence. In it, the Executive Vice President of the Development Academy of the Philippines (DAP) announced that, having been an official for almost 10 years of "the Marcos reactionary government . . . serving a ruling system that has brought so much suffering and misery to the broad masses of the Filipino people" he had had enough.

Detailing his decision to go underground and join the National Democratic Front (NDF), Morales said that his experience made it "very clear to me that the system cannot be reformed from within, that there is no choice but to dismantle the entire machinery and smash it completely . . .I see that this evil regime must be overthrown and destroyed . . . I refuse to take any more part in this. I have had enough of this regime's treachery, greed, and brutality, its exploitation and oppression of the people."

Morales, as DAP Executive Vice President, was in a position to know a good deal about efforts to "reform the system from within." DAP is Marcos braintrust charged with the responsibility of devising programs to keep the lid on the simmering pot of Philippine society. From land reform to squatter relocation to programs for national minorities deprived of their traditional livelihood, DAP's army of bright young technocrats attempts to devise projects to ease the pain and the pressure just enough to keep the pot from boiling over and sweeping away the Marcos regime.

DAP AND REPRESSION

Life at DAP also provided Morales with direct experience of Marcos' machinery for repression. As a research body charged with developing national policy, DAP is a sensitive institution with increasingly rigid security precautions. In an effort to cleanse its ranks of "dangerous" elements, in particular, people sympathetic to the National Democratic struggle, DAP early in 1976 initiated stringent screening of all current and prospective employees. In the ensuing purge, a number of employees, including ex-political prisoners, found themselves without a job.

DAP now has its own contingent of NISA (National Intelligence and Security Agency) agents permanently stationed on its grounds. They feel free to question employees at will without so much as notifying their superiors. In the past, they have periodically sealed off DAP premises to search the files for subversive materials.

Morales' choice to join the National Democratic Front will come as a bitter pill for dictator Marcos. If one of his brightest young technocrats can be won over to the people's struggle, who else among his entourage may be a secret supporter? Morales concluded his statement by calling on his colleagues in the government to sabotage anti-people projects and "join the armed struggle against the Marcos dictatorship."□

ANG KATIPUNAN — January 15-31, 1978

AFP Singles Out Non-Combatants

2 MUSLIMS BRUTALLY MURDERED

For Hadji Tanggo, a survivor of the 1976 Wao massacre, severed ears are a constant reminder of that brutal event. Such atrocities, perpetuated by Army and PC officials, are common in the South.

Army officials stationed at Dulawan, Maguindanao, murdered two Muslim non-combatants, and then horribly disfigured their corpses. The victims, Abubakar Guiapal, a rice dealer, and a gas station attendant named Sot, were on their way to Buluan when military men accosted them. The two, who were travelling with friends, were singled out for interrogation at a military checkpoint simply because officials disliked the way they looked.

Abubaka, a big and stout man was accused by soldiers of having falsified his age,in his cedula (residence certificate), because he appeared older than his registered age. Sot was simply picked on for bearing a dirty cedula. These "defects" earned them a trip to army headquarters for questioning, and on the following day the two were murdered.

A lieutenant claims that the two muslims were killed because they were "Black Shirts" (bandits) and Abubakar was wielding a gun. Few of the local residents believed any of the accusations. The victims ears were cut off, their faces horribly disfigured and their bodies cut and slashed in numerous places. No one was allowed to remove their bodies until one man was sent by the owners of the Dulawar Bus Co. on behalf of the victims' relatives. Their companions, in order to reach their destination, had to seek a police escort to protect them from the army troops.□

BASES AND U.S. INTERVENTION

The bases were ostensibly set up to protect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Philippines. It is therefore paradoxical that these bases have, in fact, been one of the constant sources of external intervention in the domestic affairs of the country.

On January 10, 1969, Clark Air Base officials provided a helicopter to assist Philippine Constabulary troops in an encounter with Huk insurgents in Bataan Province by conducting air-to-ground communication.[8]

On another occasion, three C-47's from Clark did aerial photography of dense growth areas in Zambales Province for Philippine Constabulary troops hunting down Huk insurgents.[9]

From time to time, American base officials provided Philippine counterinsurgency forces with such items as M-16 rifles, ammunition, helmets and even C-rations.[10]

Base personnel conducted a number of "civic-action" projects—a euphemism for ideological support operations—in areas adjoining the bases.[11]

Post-martial law cases of direct or indirect interference have also been recorded. During the hearings on the 1975 military assistance bill, the State Department revealed that a U.S. Air Force mobile training team had trained Philippine Air Force pilots to fly their newly acquired C-123k aircraft at Clark Air Base from October to December 1973.[12] These planes have since had a major logistical role in the Philippine military's campaign against Muslim insurgents in the southern part of the Philippines.

After the declaration of martial law in 1972, one squadron of Philippine Air Force (PAF) F-5's—the whole modern fighter component of the PAF at the time—was based in Clark at the very period that they were reported to be carrying out bombing missions against the strongholds of the New People's Army (NPA) in Isabela Province.

you are invited to see the film, "Collision Course"

on: Monday, February 27, 1978

time: 7:30 p.m.

place: Hart House (South Sitting Room) University of Toronto

Presented by: Student Christian Movement & C.P.F.S.

—AP photo

NURSES GO FREE IN POISON CASE

Filipino nurses Leonora Perez, left, and Filipina Narciso were happy yesterday when U.S. government anounced it will not retry them on charges of poisoning patients. They were convicted last July of five non-fatal poisonings in the intensive care unit of the Veteran's Administration Hospital in Ann Arbor, Mich. in 1975. Prosecutors said the nurses injected Pavulon into intravenous tubes, causing the patients to suffer breathing lapses. The verdicts were overturned last December and yesterday U.S. attorney James Robinson dropped charges saying there was no hard evidence linking the nurses to the crimes.

THE TORONTO STAR, Thurs., Feb. 2, 1978

APPEAL TO OUR SUPPORTERS

Help sustain our efforts to continue to bring to you developments in the Philippines.

Help us in our campaing to sustain the SIKLAB. Help finance the printing and mailing costs!

Name _____

Address _____

_____

Amount of Donation _____

CANADA-PHILIPPINES FRIENDSHIP SOC
P.O. BOX 5505, STATION "A"
TORONTO, CANADA M5W 1N7