

MEMORANDUM

1488

UNITED CHURCH BOARD
OR HOMELAND MINISTRIES287 Park Avenue South
New York, N. Y. 10010

Date July 12, 1977

To U.S. Friends of Zone One Tondo Organization and Trinidad Herrera, President

From Herbert D. White

re Herrera Trial and Attached Documents

As some of the attached documents "attest", Mrs. Herrera and Teresita Palacios, a witness in Herrera's trial, are part of an international Marxist conspiracy against the Marcos regime - largely because of their association with all of us (see pgs. 10 ff. of 1)! Take heart in that the government prosecutor seems to have an IQ of about 80.

Teresita Palacios is an internationally known professor of Social Work at the University of the Philippines; Mary Hollnsteiner an internationally known Sociologist, director of the Institute of Philippine Culture at Ateneo University. Both have submitted defense affidavits to the effect the Mrs. Herrera is not a communist and that ZOTO is not a communist front group - but rather an effective organization which knows how to exercise its power in a repressive martial law regime. Both are now being scurrilously attacked by the prosecution. These documents do not include the attack on Hollnsteiner, but do include her rebuttal.

Many of you will note the sensitivity of the prosecution to "Friends" role in support of ZOTO against World Bank financed development plans for Tondo.

You are urged to do one or all of the following:

- Urge that Herrera's trial be transferred from a military to civilian court; that civilian trials be implemented immediately for all political prisoners (or that they be released by) sending a night letter to Ferdinand E. Marcos, President, Malacanang Palace, Manila, Philippines, copy furnished to the Philippine Consul (if there is such in your city).
- Urge the World Bank to halt its funding schedule for the Tondo Development Project until the Marcos Regime ceases harassment and arrest of ZOTO leaders (send copies to President Carter).
- Urge that the U.S. Government 1) do all that's possible to see that Herrera's trial is transferred to a civilian court and that civilian trials for all political prisoners be implemented immediately; 2) not contribute funding to the World Bank for the Tondo Development Project; 3) cease military assistance to the Marcos regime because of its continuing human rights violations-by writing President Carter; Ms. Pat Derian, Human Rights Division State Department; Ms. Phoebe Lansdale, USAID - Washington; your congress people.

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Send me copies of what you do, and any responses you receive.

Please take a little time for this. It's not often that peoples' organizations are offered a concrete way to support each other across the seas. Utilize your networks and organizations if possible. We were very effective in getting Herrera released from her torture chamber. Now for the longer haul.....

NOTE: Documents marked (1) are the specific subject of this memo. Those marked (2) - you may have received earlier.