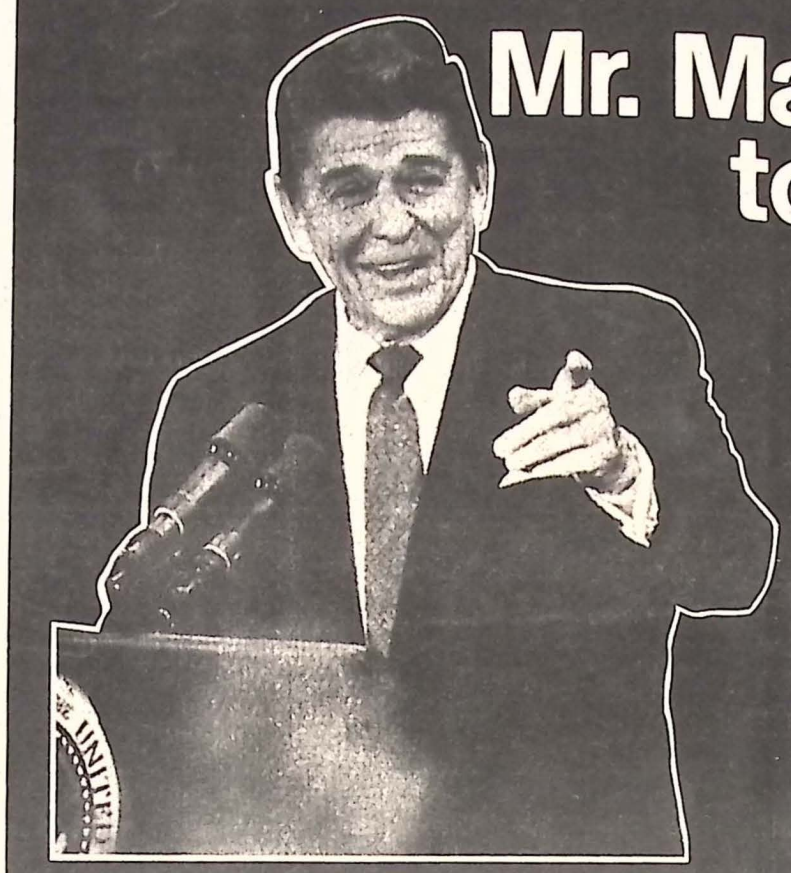
Coalition Against the Marcos Dictatorship/Philippine Solidary Network

Mr. Marcos Comes to Washington



"For his services, Marcos has received two commitments from Reagan—military and economic aid to contain the growing resistance in the Philippines and a promise to silence the anti-Marcos movement in the U.S."

President Ferdinand Marcos of the Philippines, a dictator whom the Reagan administration has proclaimed as one of its closest allies in Asia, will make his long-awaited state visit to Washington in September.

The full attention of the regime is on the state visit. Presses in Manila are rolling full speed, churning out slick propaganda pieces glorifying the Marcos regime to flood the U.S. Filipino community. Glossy full-color table volumes on the history of the Philippines, "authored" by the dictator himself are being published for handouts during the visit. Specials on Philippine arts, sports, economic development and U.S.-style democracy are being fed into the American media. Teams of top-level Philippine diplomats are being pulled together from all over the world, ensconced in condominiums in Washington, San Francisco and L.A. to fete receptions for American businessmen and politicians, greasing the wheels for the official visit. Marcos devoted a major speech before his departure to issue a stern warning to those "dissidents" who may be planning strikes, assassinations or other disruptions while he is in the U.S. "We're keeping a list of the subversives and we'll get every last one of them," he warned.

The state visit is obviously a once in a lifetime chance for Marcos and he's going to try to squeeze every last drop out of the opportunity.

But why the visit? Why an invitation to a tyrant so infamous that even successive U.S. administrations have kept him at arms-length during his sixteen years of rule? And why now? Why—when the Philippines is wracked with an economic crisis so deep that the majority of its people are going hungry, that its external debt is one of the highest in the world, that its main export commodities are plunging on the world market—and a political crisis so severe that over 40% of the electorate boycotted the one-man presidential elections last year despite the penalty of imprisonment for non-voting and millions of Filipinos ally themselves with the revolutionary National Democratic Front — is the regime expending so much time, money and effort on an official state visit to the U.S.?

The answer, interestingly enough, lies not so much in Manila as in Washington.

THE INVITATION

Though the Philippines has been a long-standing guardian of U.S. interests in the Pacific, the Reagan administration is the first to extend the official invitation to Marcos. The invitation is not merely a courtesy to Marcos who hosted not only Vice-President Bush, but also former Secretary of State Haig and Secretary of Defense Weinberger in the past year. Reagan's welcome of Marcos marks the culmination of a 1 1/2 year public relations effort to perform the impossible: to transform Marcos' image from that of a notorious violator of human rights to that of an "invaluable, democratic ally in defense of the Free World." The thrust of this campaign was clearly stated by Vice-President Bush who toasted Marcos on his "election" last year, "We love your adherence to democratic principles and processes."

Marcos is coming to the U.S. in the midst of an aggressive effort to reestablish U.S. political and military dominance internationally. All-out support for repressive regimes—from the Philippines to El Salvador—is a major pillar of this belligerent strategy. In Washington's view, these regimes are the only "reliable" guardians of the political and economic interests of the U.S. elite.

STRATEGY IN ASIA— THE BASES

Ever since its defeat in Vietnam, the U.S. has maneuvered to regain its dominant control in Asia. Key to this role, are the two huge U.S. military bases in the Philippines—Clark Air Base and Subic Naval Base. The two bases form the axis of the American offensive strategy in Southeast Asia and the logistical hub for military deployment in the Indian Ocean and as far as the Middle East.

The importance of these bases in the new U.S. global strategy was underscored by Defense Secretary Weinberger on his trip to the Philippines this spring in preparation for the renegotiation of the U.S.-R.P. Bases Agreeement. Weinberger aimed to reverse once and for all any lingering notion brought by the U.S. debacle in Vietnam that the U.S.is on the retreat in Asia. Militarily, this new strategy views with utmost importance the security of the critical sea lanes of Southeast Asia leading to the Indian Ocean and the Persian Gulf.

The U.S. regards Soviet access to Vietnam's military facilities (naval bases which the U.S. built in Vietnam for its war effort) as a security threat to these vital sea lanes. Subic and Clark are thus considered more important than ever.

The U.S. considers Marcos a reliable security guard for these strategic U.S. bases, an agent strong enough to deal with the growing nationalist opposition which is demanding their removal. In exchange for $500 million in U.S. military aid, Marcos plays host *par excellence* to the U.S. military.

As U.S. Ambassador to the Philippines Michael Armacost informed Congress a few months ago, Marcos' mood is such that "We do not anticipate any obstacles" in the upcoming renegotiation of the bases in 1983.

Marcos, however, has more than one role to fill in Washington's grand scheme. ASEAN—the Association of Southeast Asian Nations—is seen by Reagan as a key mouthpiece of U.S. interests in Asia. Formerly an economic bloc, ASEAN, at U.S. insistence, is now being transformed into an overtly military alliance, taking the place of the SEATO, the U.S. dominated military coalition which fell apart during the Vietnam War.

And Marcos, a faithful U.S. ally is being groomed to serve as the principal spokesman for U.S. interests within this body.

. . . and the RSVP

So Marcos is working hard for his U.S. backers—and what exactly is he getting in return?

In exchange for his services, Marcos has received

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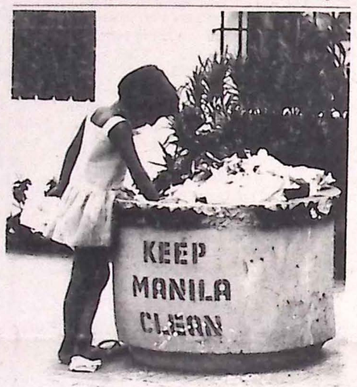
The Philippines—
Repression and Resistance

Marcos has Washington's stamp of approval and that should be good for a little longevity - but the man that the Reagan administration has chosen to back to the hilt has feet of clay. At no other time since the imposition of martial law in 1972 has Marcos been more isolated.

The Crisis

The Neo-Colonial Economy

Ever since it became a colony of the U.S. after the Spanish-American War in 1898, the Philippines has been a major source of wealth for the U.S. With U.S. corporations being given the same rights



Widespread poverty is the price of the World Bank-IMF economic strategy for the Philippines.

as Filipinos to "own and exploit" the country's natural resources as part of the Philippine Constitution, U.S. businesses have netted massive profits from mining, agriculture, and more recently, light assembly and manufacturing interests in the Philippines.

Because "cheap labor" in the Philippines is the main source of these massive profits, the U.S. - and its local henchmen - has always put a premium on keeping wages low to attract foreign investment. In the vast coconut and sugar plantations, farmworkers who till the fertile land make barely enough to eat. In the Export Processing Zones - special tax-free industrial havens for foreign companies - strikes are explicitly prohibited.

At the same time, because the Philippine economy was "developed" to serve the interests of U.S. and multinational companies, local industry and agriculture has suffered to the point where there is little likelihood - barring a total revolutionary upheaval - for the development of any significant Philippine industry which could provide goods needed by the Filipino people.

The Martial Law Solution

This pattern of development has taken its toll in hunger, unemployment, inflation, and widespread poverty both in the cities and the rural areas. When Marcos declared martial law ten years ago, he promised economic prosperity in return for depriving the Filipino people of the already few democratic rights they had.

By 1980, the regime had clearly failed to bring about this economic prosperity - in fact, there were more landless peasants than a decade earlier, real wages for urban workers were lower, and the standard of living for the majority had dropped dramatically.

The rapid erosion of living standards and economic stagnation plaguing the Filipino people are not by-products of the international recession, as the regime's technocrats are fond of saying, nor are they the natural conditions of underdevelopment, as U.S. economists assert. Rather, they are the costs of an economic strategy imposed by the World Bank and the IMF for the benefit of U.S. multinational corporations.

World Bank Cabinet

Last year, the economic crisis came to a head. The crisis led to the installation of the "World Bank-IMF Cabinet" - handpicked Filipino technocrats headed by Prime Minister Cesar Virata, a favorite of the international bankers. Nothing is left to chance. Virata and the World Bank boys have the mandate from Washington to guarantee payment of the country's massive debt and to ensure that the Philippine government does not waver in implementing the bankrupt and disastrous strategy.

The economic crisis and the tightening stranglehold on national resources by foreign capital have heightened the political crisis of the regime.

The Marcos Military

These strains in the ruling coalition, have led the dictator to rely almost exclusively on the military in order to retain his power. This has resulted, in turn, in even greater dependence on the U.S., whose resources alone can allow Marcos to maintain a military establishment now estimated at 415,000 men. In 1982, the Reagan administration is providing Marcos with $140 million in military aid - up from $105 million in 1981.

In September 1981, Armed Force Chief Fabian Ver and U.S. Deputy Secretary of Defense Frank Carlucci mapped out a joint plan to curb "rising insurgency."

The military has become Marcos' almost exclusive means of control.

The Growing Resistance

The National Democratic Front

The increasing isolation of Marcos has been translated into the increasing prominence of the anti-dictatorship movement.

The National Democratic Front (NDF) is a revolutionary coalition dedicated to the overthrow of the Marcos regime, true land reform, and the elimination of U.S. control over the Philippine economic and political system. Among its many organizations include the May 1 Workers' Movement (KMU), Nationalist Youth (KM), Christians for National Liberation, the Communist Party of the Philippines, and its armed wing the New People's Army (NPA). The NDF currently has 50,000 organizers operating in 2/3 of the country's 71 provinces.

In 1981, a secret World Bank report, the *Ascher Memorandum* predicted that should Marcos fall, "the most likely alternative" was the National Democratic Front.

The Workers

The founding in May 1980 of the May 1 Movement (KMU) signalled an important step in the resistance movement. An explicitly anti-imperialist labor federation, the 500,000-strong KMU has emerged as the main threat to the regime's policy of driving down wages to attract multi-national corporations.

The militancy and effectiveness of the KMU has made it a special target of the Marcos regime. This has meant raids of union headquarters and the arrest and prolonged detention of its General Secretary Ernesto Arellano and other trade union leaders.

And the Peasants

A major thrust of the NDF strategy for seizing political power focuses on organizing the 70% of the population that lives in the countryside. Through its armed wing, the New Peoples Army, it has established 28 guerilla fronts covering 400 municipalities in over half of the country's provinces. This is, indeed, a far cry from the small contingent with 35 rifles that launched the NPA in the Cagayan Valley of Luzon 13 years ago.

A vital component of the nation-wide resistance to the dictatorship is the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) in Mindanao.

The rise of the NPA alongside the MNLF has gravely worried the U.S. Embassy, prompting it to conduct a three-month field investigation of insurgent activity in Mindanao, now the NPA's prime expansion area, in early 1982.

The ability of the movement to puncture the illusion of normalization was demonstrated by the NDF-organized boycott of the presidential elections in June 1981. More than 200,000 people participated in demonstrations in 12 cities and 36 towns throughout the country. Despite the penalty of imprisonment for non-voting, an estimated 40% of the electorate boycotted the polls.

The U.S. to the Rescue

The resistance movement is the thorn in Marcos' side as he anticipates his walk with Reagan in the Rose Garden. But, as we have seen, the U.S. is not about to leave the fate of its ally - and more importantly, the U.S. bases - in the Philippines to chance.

The U.S. bases in the Philippines are a vital component of U.S. military strategy not only in Asia, but globally. The Philippines, therefore, assumes an importance to the U.S. far beyond its particular financial interests - vast though they are - in that country alone. And the protection of the bases is of utmost importance to the U.S.

The U.S. is also counting on its continuing political influence in the entire Southeast Asia region as insurance for the security of the bases. The U.S. alliance with China as an anti-Soviet/anti-Vietnam front in the region, and its use of ASEAN as a U.S. mouthpiece and an eventual surrogate intervention force has meant that the U.S. currently enjoys a position of political and diplomatic preeminence unmatched since the liberation of Vietnam in 1975.

"Looking at Asia as a whole," former Secretary of State Alexander Haig declared last year, "our position is much improved."

Defense analysts call Subic Naval Base, "the most important complex in the world" for U.S. global military strategy.

Allies of the Resistance

This global role that the U.S. has designed for the Philippines makes international support for the resistance even more crucial.

We cannot ignore how high the U.S. stakes in the Philippines really are. This sober realization makes the responsibility of the success of the resistance movement of the Philippines truly an international responsibility.

The U.S.—
Crackdown on the Opposition

In November, 1981, headlines in Filipino community newspapers screamed the threatening news - "U.S.-Philippine Extradition Treaty Finalized, New Pact Awaits Ratification in the Senate." The following week, another headline, "Grand Jury in San Francisco Investigates Filipino 'Terrorists'." The headlines cast a predictable pall over the 1.5 million-member Filipino community in the U.S. Many of them had fled the Philippines to get away from Marcos' fascist rule. Many had joined in active protest against the regime after coming to the U.S., protected, they assumed, by the constitutional rights of free speech and political assembly.

Now the terror of the regime had found its way to the U.S.

These direct attacks on anti-Marcos opponents in the U.S. are the most recent fruit of the Reagan-Marcos alliance. The attack is far-reaching and is intended both to silence the active opposition movement and to intimidate the Filipino community in the U.S. by extending the icy fingers of martial law into their midst. And it is not just Marcos who benefits from this assault.

National Security v.Civil Liberties

A few months after his election, Ronald Reagan had already made it clear that the scales of justice in his administration would be tilted toward "national security" interests at the expense of civil liberties.

"The U.S.-R.P. Extradition Treaty means that U.S.-based opponents of the regime can end up in Marcos' jails for First Amendment activities."

The Reagan policy found its battle slogan when Secretary of State Haig proclaimed the U.S. was embarking on a war against the "Soviet-inspired international terrorism", and under this standard the policies, regulations and guidelines came thick and fast.

One of the first White House proposals to Congress was to resurrect the old House Un-American Activities Committee and to establish a new Senate Committee on Security and Terrorism. A Justice Department spokesman explained that one of the first areas that these committees would investigate would be "foreign nationals and their allies in the U.S." who are working against the interests of U.S.-favored regimes.

Next, the administration issued guidelines expanding the role of the FBI and allowing the CIA to carry out *domestic* surveillance of political dissidents. Then the Freedom of Information Act was whittled away, making it practically impossible to find out about records that the CIA, FBI and other government intelligence agencies have on political groups and individuals.

These measures are not just arbitrary moves. They are part and parcel of the Reagan administration's aggressive, militaristic foreign policy. Even this administration realizes that it cannot just wish the Vietnam Syndrome away.

They have to convince the American people that it is worth it to sacrifice their living standards, to disregard the needs of minorities, and to actually fight the bloody war for the glorious aim of preserving U.S. global dominance.

Political organizations and activists who oppose U.S. intervention therefore become major obstacles to the success of the Reagan counter-offensive.

It is no wonder the Reagan administration is putting the clamp on.

The warranty is expiring on the constitutional guarantees of political expression and the first people to find that their claim check is no longer valid are - as is to be expected - minority, foreign-born, and political activists.

Marcos' Spies

This "national security" campaign has taken on a particular thrust in the Filipino community, and is the direct result of the new Reagan embrace of Marcos.

There is a hidden history to the prowls of Philippine intelligence agents in the U.S. Columnist Jack Anderson has revealed that as early as 1973, - just following the declaration of martial law in the Philippines, when anti-Marcos groups were organizing widely in the U.S.—Marcos security agents were spying on U.S.-based opponents.

It is known that intelligence teams from the Philippines are authorized to conduct intelligence gathering, surveillance, monitoring, harassment and intimidation against anti-Marcos Filipinos. The authorization specifically does not rule out the use of violence against such Filipinos.

Danger: Extradition

The U.S.-Philippine Extradition Treaty is now pending ratification in the U.S. Senate. Finalized in November, 1981 by the U.S. and Philippine governments, it need only pass the Senate and be signed by the President before it can be implemented.

The Treaty contains a new provision, distinct from current U.S. extradition law, which allows the Secretary of State - as opposed to the courts - to determine what is a political offense, and therefore a non-extraditable crime. This dangerous move strips a suspect of his constitutional rights to due process, and essentially means that the outcome of any case will be determined by what suits foreign policy interests.

The Secretary of State may indeed encounter situations in which political dissidents who have taken refuge in this country might be handy bargaining chips to be slammed on the table in return for economic or military concessions from a friendly foreign government.

As the Treaty runs contrary to current U.S. extradition law, new legislation has been introduced in both the Senate and the House to "modernize" U.S. extradition law so that it will match this new standard.

Both the Senate and the House versions of the bill contain provisions that could keep a person named for extradition on detention for up to 60 days without charges - while the requesting state is seeking evidence for the extradition hearing. Imprisonment without trial? guilty until proven innocent? - these are the immediate consequences of the "modernization" of extradition law.

Marcos Targets

Although the Treaty has not yet been ratified, Marcos has already named his targets for extradition. On January 5, 1982, the Philippine Court of First Instance issued warrants for the arrest of 40 persons charged with violation of the Anti-Subversion Law.

The court stated, "the Revised Anti-Subversion Law defines a subversive organization as one organized for the purpose of overthrowing the governments of the Republic of the Philippines with the open or covert assistance of power by force, violence, *deceit* or other illegal means. *A person becomes liable for subversion when he knowingly, willingly, or by overt acts becomes or remains a member of such subversive organization.*"

According to the Marcos-controlled *Bulletin Today*, the dozen persons on the list who reside in the U.S. will be sought for extradition under the new treaty.

Included in the top priority section of the arrest list is Rene Cruz, former coordinator of CAMD, the Coalition Against the Marcos Dictatorship and currently editor of *Ang Katipunan*, the widely-read anti-Marcos monthly. Cruz, a well-known opposition figure has been in the forefront of efforts to oppose U.S. support for Marcos repression for the past ten years. The activities of CAMD and the editorials of the *Ang Katipunan*, though scathing in their indictments of the regime, are legitimate political expression guaranteed by the First Amendment.

Nonetheless, the Philippine government has stated that it will begin extradition proceedings against Cruz for the crime of "being an official and member of a subversive organization."

The National Committee to Oppose the U.S.-R.P. Extradition Treaty, initiated by the CAMD, the KDP and the Philippine Solidarity Network as soon as the Treaty was finalized, has mobilized massive opposition to the Treaty.

The opposition is strong and broad - because many people who have not been involved in the anti-Marcos movement see the direct connection of the Treaty to other solidarity and civil liberties battles.

The Grand Jury

When Haig visited Marcos last year in Manila, he promised the dictator that the U.S. would join him in a "crackdown on Filipino terrorists." Shortly afterward, a Grand Jury was convened in San Francisco to investigate violations of the Neutrality Act, which prohibits activity toward the overthrow of a government friendly to the U.S.

Whether or not indictments follow this Grand Jury investigation, the very nature of these secret, star-chamber proceedings to which anyone who has uttered a word against the regime can be called, is enough to accomplish the task: instill an element of fear into the Filipino community and isolate the activists by painting them as dangerous terrorists.

The Seatle Murders

On June 1, 1981, Gene Viernes and Silme Domingo, two members of KDP, activists in the anti-Marcos movement, and officers of ILWU Local 37, were gunned down in cold blood in their Seattle union hall.

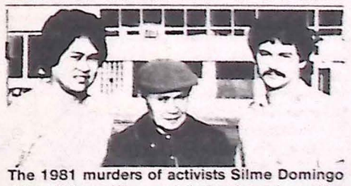
Because of their commitment and their courage, Gene and Silme had many enemies - in the corrupt oldguard union officials, in the Alaskan seafood industry, and in the Marcos regime. Though only two of those enemies pulled the trigger that dealt their fatal blow, the powerful interests that Gene and Silme opposed also benefited from their death.

After a series of local trials, in which two hit men and a gang leader who paid for their deed, were convicted of aggravated murder, new evidence is surfacing which indicates that this act was the fruit of close collaboration between U.S. and Philippine intelligence agencies.

Full Circle

So the Reagan-Marcos partnership comes full circle. Support for repression abroad is bound to breed repression at home. Those who oppose the dictatorship, and U.S. support for the regime now face the combined wrath of a Reagan-Marcos alliance that has no qualms about stripping persons of their constitutional rights to further their reactionary policy.

This new, unconditional, massive support takes a tremendous toll - not only on the people of the Third World who bear the brunt of U.S.-backed



The 1981 murders of activists Silme Domingo (l.) and Gene Viernes (r.) may have been the fruit of collusion between U.S. and Philippine intelligence agencies.

repression, but also on the people of the U.S. who pay the price of severe social cutbacks and increasing repression at home. Nowhere is this more sharply felt than by those such as anti-Marcos activists, Haitian refugees, Salvadorian asylum-seekers - who as we have increasingly witnessed over the past year, are the first to taste the bitter fruits of the reactionary alliance between the Reagan administration and the dictatorships in their homeland.

If the Extradition Treaty means that an opposition newspaper editor in the U.S. can end up in a Marcos jail, if opposition to Marcos means imprisonment for refusing to testify before a U.S. Grand Jury, if support for Philippine workers means that $10,000 in hit money can find trade union leaders dead in a Seattle union hall - then who among us can say that our own liberties and lives are not vulnerable to the forces of reaction?

Protest the Marcos State Visit

●Oppose U.S. Support for Dictatorships

●Oppose U.S.-Marcos Attacks on the Opposition Movement

Contact your local CAMD/PSN to join the Campaign

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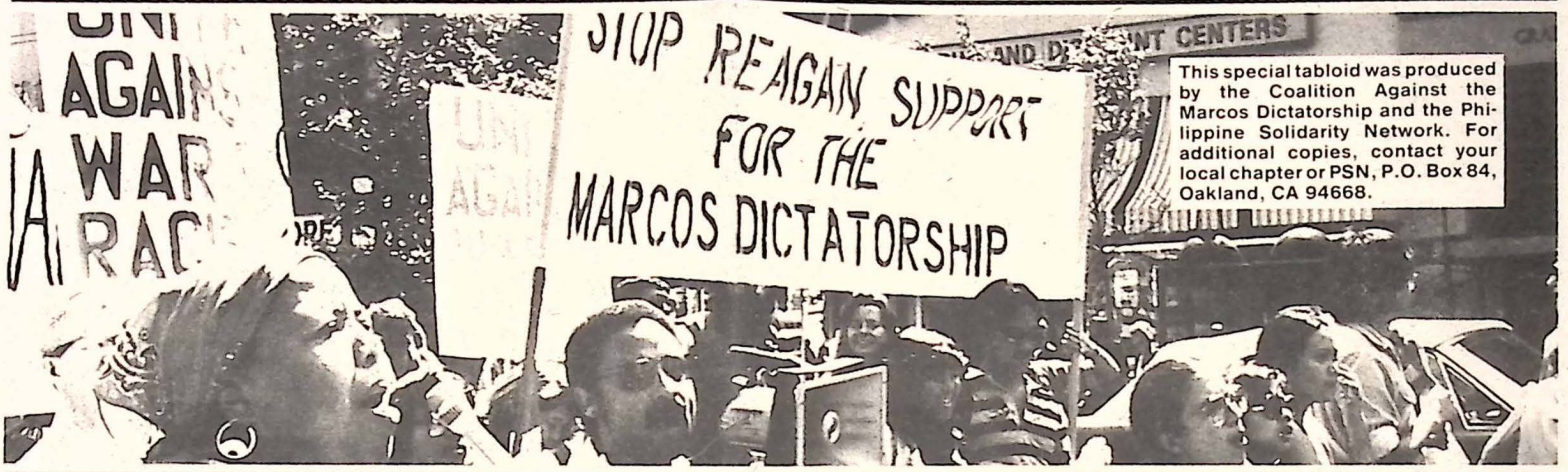

This special tabloid was produced by the Coalition Against the Marcos Dictatorship and the Philippine Solidarity Network. For additional copies, contact your local chapter or PSN, P.O. Box 84, Oakland, CA 94668.

Mr. Marcos . . .

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two commitments from Reagan. First, a guarantee of huge quantities of military and economic aid to contain the burgeoning national liberation movement in the Philippines. Second, a promise to silence the anti-Marcos movement in the U.S.—a movement which because of its prominence in the Filipino community and its international presence, has always been a thorn in Marcos' side.

The Charade of Normalization

Surely there was great rejoicing in Malacañang Palace in Manila when Ronald Reagan was elected president of the U.S. The dictator, who despite his nine years of military rule was losing his grip on the country, at last had the friend he needed in Washington to bolster his position against the strength of the growing opposition.

As soon as Reagan was elected, Marcos played his role as the "democratic protector of the Free World," to the hilt.

This drama, billed as "normalization," was a farce that fooled nobody. The regime, over the last year and a half, has behaved as brutally as it ever did during martial law:

—307 cases of "salvaging" or unofficial execution in the hands of the military were registered in 1981—the highest recorded since 1972, the year martial law was implemented.

—828 persons were arrested for political offenses last year, up from 795 in 1980. The regime has officially conceded that over 60,000 Filipinos have been detained or imprisoned since the beginning of martial rule.

—Torture continues to be a policy of the government. Victims of salvaging show signs of heavy torture and mutilation before they were killed.

—At least 25,000 villagers were driven from their homes early this year by Philippine government troops creating "strategic hamlets" in Mindanao. Since 1972, over a million refugees have been created in Mindanao alone by Marcos' brutal campaign to destroy the Moro peoples' movement.

The increase in human rights violations has been so alarming that Amnesty International has declared September 1982—the month of the state visit—a period to spotlight human rights abuses in the Philippines.

But the charade of normalization combined with Reagan's foreign policy means that the dictator need not fear any repercussions from his brutality. As we have seen in the case of El Salvador, human rights certification from the U.S. State Department are easy to come by for repressive, but friendly, allies of the U.S.

RESISTANCE

Though full-fledged U.S. support pulls the rug out from under the elite opposition and heightens the violence against the liberation forces, it has not stemmed the tide of resistance. In the countryside, the New People's Army (NPA) operates in over half the country's 71 provinces, mobilizing the peasantry and challenging the government's armed forces. In the cities, the National Democratic Front (NDF) has organized millions of supporters in the labor, student, church and professional sectors. The militant KMU labor federation has grown dramatically; and led major strikes and demonstrations—including a walkout of thousands of workers in the export processing zones, where strikes are specifically prohibited.

Even the U.S. lifeline to the regime cannot eliminate the political struggle against reaction in the Philippines, but this added transfusion means that the struggle will be an even more lengthy and bloody one.

And In The U.S.

The anti-Marcos opposition in the U.S. is a strong and vibrant movement with deep roots in the Filipino community and alliances with the broader progressive U.S. movement. Its political strength is not only a threat to Marcos, but to the Reagan administration's every move to bolster the repressive regime.

During the past year, a new—and more insidious—aspect of the Reagan-Marcos alliance has emerged. The joint U.S.-Philippine governments' attack on the anti-Marcos opposition in the U.S.

This attack is far-reaching and is intended to both quash the active opposition movement and to intimidate the 1.5 million Filipinos in the U.S. by extending the icy fingers of martial law into the Filipino community.

This attack fits in very well with the Reagan administration's crackdown on political activists in the name of "national security."

This "national security" thrust has taken on a particular character of attack for the anti-Marcos opposition. We are daily witnessing the implementation of Haig's promise to Marcos to "crackdown" on Filipino terrorists":

—In November 1981, the U.S. and Philippine governments finalized the U.S.-R.P.Extradition Treaty. The Treaty which is now pending ratification in the Senate, includes provisions contrary tp current extradition law, which will virtually obliterate the political offense exception for extraditable crimes.

In January 1982, the Manila Court of First Instance charged forty people—a dozen of whom live in the U.S.—with violations of the Philippine anti-subversion law. The Marcos controlled *Bulletin Today* targetted the U.S. residents on the list as persons being sought for extradition—despite the fact that the Treaty is not yet ratified.

—A federal Grand Jury was convened in San Francisco last fall to investigate anti-Marcos oppositionists for "exporting terrorism" under the U.S. Neutrality Act.

—In June 1981, two trade-union leaders, Gene Viernes and Silme Domingo, members of the Union of Democratic Filipinos (KDP) and activists in the anti-Marcos movement were murdered in cold blood in the Seattle union hall of ILWU Local 37 where they worked. After a series of local trials, in which the hit men were convicted of aggravated murder, new evidence is surfacing which implicates both U.S. and Philippine intelligence agencies in the killings.

The squads of Marcos goons which will accompany the President on his state visit heighten the threat to anti-Marcos activists and to the Filipinos in this country for whom the Extradition Treaty and the Grand Jury are like a sword of Damocles hanging over their heads.

In short, Reagan has allowed the extension of martial law into the Filipino community in the U.S.—a move that amounts to stripping a sector of the U.S. population of its constitutionally guaranteed rights of free speech and political assembly—for the purpose of advancing a reactionary foreign policy.

It is in the context of this new, dangerous turn in U.S.-Philippine relations that the Marcos state visit takes place. It is not a normal courtesy accorded an ally. This affair is a celebration of a repressive alliance.