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FREE

Foreign Company Abuses Filipinos



*(THE FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS FROM A LETTER DATED MARCH 9 FROM FINDLAY MILLAR TIMBER CO. EMPLOYEES IN KOLAMBUGAN, LANA DEL NORTE, SENT TO THE MINISTRY OF LABOR.)

We are workers of Findlay Millar Timber Co., an American-owned lumber corporation. Since 1973, we have been suffering delayed payrolls and unpaid benefits due to us. Last August and September, we went on a mass walk-out to protest the non-payment of five payrolls amounting to ₱2.5 million. After 13 days there was a conciliation meeting and the management was required to make salaries up-to-date by January 1979 and no transfers, no dismissals to be made as disciplinary actions resulting from the walk-out.....

The new year 1979 did not bring joy nor bounty to us but more problems and debts--the company again stopped paying while we continued working. It seemed to us that the company has all the privileges to determine when it will pay us while we must work and wait patiently for the money due us to be given.....

On February 19, we walked out on our jobs for the second time in six months. The company operations have stopped since then.....

(continued P. 3)

Agtrabtrbaho kami iti maysa a kompanya a kukua ti maysa nga korporasyon dagiti Amerikano nga managan iti FINDLAY MILLAR TIMBER CO. Manipud pay idi 1973, agsagsagaba kamin gapu iti saan nga pannakaited daras ti sueldo mi ken saanda nga panagbayad kadagiti benepisyo nga rebbengmi nga awaten.

Idi Agosto ken Setyembre saan kami nga simrek nga nagtrabaho, nagprotesta kami iti saan nga pangited ti kompanya ti sueldo ket agdagup iti 2.5 a milyon nga pisos. Kalpasan ti sangapulo ket tallo nga aldaw, nagmimiting kami kadagiti pangulo ti kompanya. Ket nakedngan nga dagdagusenda ti mangsueldo agingga ti Enero 1979.

Napagtutulagan nga awan ti maiyakar ken maikkat iti trabaho. Dimteng ti baro nga tawen 1979 ngem awan man laeng ti nauray mi no di ket bin-ig nga rigat, problema ken umad-adu nga utang. Ti kompanya insardeng na manen nga ited ti sueldomi, kabayatan ti panagtrabtrabahomi. Deter Determinado ti kompanya nga ited na no kayat na ti sueldomi. Idi Pebrero 19, saan kami manen nga simrek a nagtrabaho. Ti kompanya insardeng na met ti operasyon na, iti dayta met la nga aldaw.

Tapno marisut dayta a problema, idi Marso 7, immay ti comander ti Constabularyo, Lt.Col. Alberto de Castro nga kasuana ti sumagmamano nga pannakabagi ti gobyerno. Napagtutulagan mi dagitoy sumsganad: makumpleto ti sueldo; awan ti maikkat kalpasan ti panagprotesta; naan-anay nga pannakaiwanwan kadagiti alagaden ti panagtrabaho; ken pannakabayad dagiti benepisyo.

Iti 6:30 ti bigat idi Marso 8, aganay kami ngainnem nga gasut a nagsubli nga agtrabaho. Iti pagserkan, adda dagiti porma nga inted da kadakami pirmaan mi nga agtrabaho. Ti porma sasawenna nga no makikadua kami pay kadagiti agprotesta, maikkat kami nga sigud iti trabaho.

Saankami nga nagpirma. Ti pannakabagi ti gobyerno nga immay nakisarsarita kadakami, ket nagpukaw. Naudi nga nakita a naglugan iti bilog ti kompanya nga mapan idia Ozamis City.

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TANOD

This section is regularly focused on the thousands of political detainees and victims of Marcos' ruthless regime. For the torturers and murderers, there will be a day of payment.

DAVAO JAIL

Ma-a City Jail in Davao, is deceiving. It is only by chance that one gets to know that among the so-called "common crime violations" are three females who can rightly be called political detainees. They are LOLITA INQUITO, BRENDA MONTALLANA and CRISPINA RANTOA.

Arrested on July 27, 1979, by a combined NISA, ISAFP, PC/INP force, the three easily conjure up images of shy barrio lasses lost and bewildered in bustling Davao. Collectively, the girls are within an age range difficult to associate with criminality, where they could better serve society outside prison than in. Lolita is a minor at 19 years while Brenda (21 years) and Crispina (26 years) have barely reached maturity when arrested.

Despite their youth, the three were not spared the usual treatment of arrested person. They were caught without benefit of a warrant of arrested, and were placed in a colonel's house for a week where they were subjected to rigorous interrogations. They faced the constant threat of being transferred to a "safe-house", for NISA elements were particularly interested in bringing them to this well-concealed hideaway.

When they were finally transferred to Ma-a City Jail, they were separated from the rest of the detainees. They were later moved to the women's prison cell, which they share with seven others. The cell is so crowded that they have to sleep on double-deck bunks and have to work without the benefit of a table (because no floor space is available for one). The girls have to do their eye-straining handicraft work in bed and as a result they frequently develop backaches. There is no washroom. There is a faucet within their cell and hence, having no wall to cover them, they can easily be seen by the guards outside when taking a bath.

Their daily fare usually consists of: breakfast - dried fish and a cornrice mixture full of pebbles; lunch and supper - boiled fish and the usual cornrice mixture. The responsibility of providing sufficient and nutritious food rations lies with the military authorities but the situation is such that the girls have to engage in production work to earn money to buy supplemental food.



MILITARY KIDNAPING CONTINUES

Sixto Sackermann Carlos Jr., the former chairman of the Political Science Department of the Philippine College of Commerce, was reported missing by his father. Carlos was an outspoken critic of the government before martial law and was forced into hiding in 1971. Carlos suffers from rheumatic heart disease and is in constant need of medical attention.

Also reported missing was Fr. Raymundo Abadicio who accompanied two men from his sister's house. The men said that they were sent by Fr. Eleazar to escort the priest to a seminar. Fr. Eleazar is the chaplain of the Presidential Guard Battalion. Fr. Abadicio is a board member of the National Secretariat of Social Action, Justice and Peace of the Catholic Bishop's Conference.



THE MARCOS GOVERNMENT CONTRACTED THE DORMEUS CO. (PUBLIC RELATIONS) TO HELP THE GOVERNMENT WITH ITS IMAGE. THIS 3 YEAR CONTRACT COST THE FILIPINO PEOPLE 1.8 MILLION DOLLARS.

IMELDA BUILDS CLUB FOR FRIENDS

The ₱500 mil. Marbella Club is under construction in Ternate, Cavite. The facility, partially funded with Phil. Government money, will include golf courses, boat harbors, private villas, and condominiums.

It is clear that the only people who can afford all of this is Imelda's "Jet Set" friends. If the first lady has a reputation for wastefulness, she continues to earn it.

(continued from P.1)

To finally resolve the problem, on March 7, the PC provincial commander, Lt. Col. Alberto de Castro, together with a government representative forged a verbal agreement with us citing four points 1) complete payments of payrolls 2) no dismissals for participating in the walk-out 3) proper supervision of return-to-work procedures 4) payment of benefits to be cleared up in writing

We reported for work at 6:30 a.m. on March 8. There were 600 of us at the main gate. There was a dismissal form to sign before we could punch in our time card. It said that if we participated in another walk-out, we will be immediately dismissed. We did not sign.....

The government representative who was to enforce the agreement was last seen going to Ozamis City aboard the company's tugboat.



Balita sa Atin (News from Home)

PROSTITUTION GROWS UNDER MARTIAL LAW

Prostitution in the Philippines has always flourished in places where there is a heavy concentration of foreigners.

Twenty-nine per cent of the many tourist frequenting Manila are Japanese. Their "package tour" includes everything from shopping to women...of course at a cheap price.

The tourist will pay \$60 for a woman for one night. The club owner will get \$15, tour operator \$15, local guide \$10, and the Japanese guide \$10. The woman will get \$5 from the club's share.

This business is a main source of income for the Manila hotels, some of which are partially owned by Ferdie and Imelda.

MORE GOV'T CORRUPTION

Twelve public officials of the Ministry of Public Highways were caught after they had written ₱6.5 mil. of false work vouchers for road repairs that were never made.

This is only a small amount of the ₱80 mil. still missing from the Ministry's budget.



" SA PULA! SA PUTI! "

In Barangay tagsing, Leon, Iloilo, the Philippine constabulary fired into a crowded cockpit during that town's fiesta.

After driving the townspeople from the cockpit the PC took ₱2,000 of betting money and 40 fighting chickens.

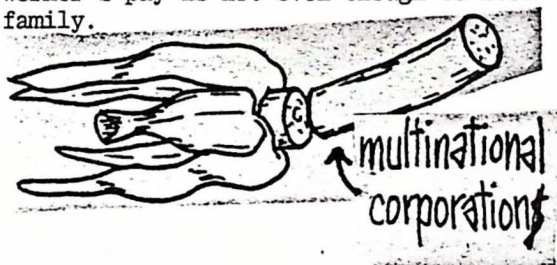
The following Sunday the PC were having a big party in their camp, using some of the confiscated chickens for "palutan" and the others for sport.

the BANANA STORY

Jose Magbuela, 36 years old, is a former aerial operator in one of the Del Monte banana plantations in Davao, on the island of Mindanao. His job was to operate a machine hanging from a cable, on which bunches of bananas are carried from the field to the packing house. When he started this work, he received \$.60 cents a day. Eventually, he managed to earn \$.95 cents a day. Management decided to pay him by the amount of work that he did (piece work) and agreed to give him 3 centavos ($\frac{1}{2}$ of 1 cent) for each bunch delivered from the field to the warehouse. Jose was shocked to find that no matter how hard he worked, he could never make more than \$3 a week or \$12 a month—compared to the \$25 a month he was making before. Jose went on AWOP (absent without permission) and now farms a small piece of land in the distant mountains. Times are hard—and the company had no trouble replacing Jose with someone else.



Jose's story is not so unusual. It is common. In 1975, banana plantations on Mindanao earned nearly \$20 million in profits; workers on these same plantations earned total annual wages of \$5 million. Each worker took home a yearly pay of around \$200 or \$16 a month. A recent government study says that an average family in the Philippines needs at least \$663 a year just to stay alive! The Philippine Government and the foreign company know that the worker's pay is not even enough to feed his family.



The banana industry is relatively new to the Philippines. In 1967, the Philippines did not export bananas to Japan. In less than 10 years (1976) 85% of the bananas being brought into Japan were from the Philippines. Most of these came from the Davao area.



One of the ironies of history is that in 1965 one of the issues that helped to defeat incumbent President Diosdado Macapagal was the revelation by his rival Ferdinand Marcos that Macapagal conspired with officials of the United Fruit Company to turn over portions of the Davao Penal Colony (Dapecol) for the production of export bananas to Japan. Today, the Davao Penal Colony, now reduced from over 29,000 hectares to less than 4,000, is surrounded by bananas—produced by United Fruit Company (now Standard Brands)—employing prisoners (who do not receive a salary for their services) and whose frontman is a crony of Mr. Marcos—Mr. Tony Floriendo...

Local residents have a number of complaints which no one in authority, either from the companies or the government seems willing to listen to...among which are: the manner in which the lands now being used for bananas were acquired (including fraud, force and deceit), aerial spraying of bananas which affects the health of plants, animals and people, unfair labor practices and the alienation and destruction of the culture and lands of minority groups. The use of such large portions of land for bananas raises a serious question, "Shouldn't this land be used to feed the Filipino people—who have the lowest nutrition rate in all of Asia? The wages the companies give do not even feed the workers.

No one considers it strange that the strongest presence of the New People's Army in the Philippines is in the Davao area. In very graphic terms, Davao and the banana industry represent the whole problem of the Philippines today.



THE END?

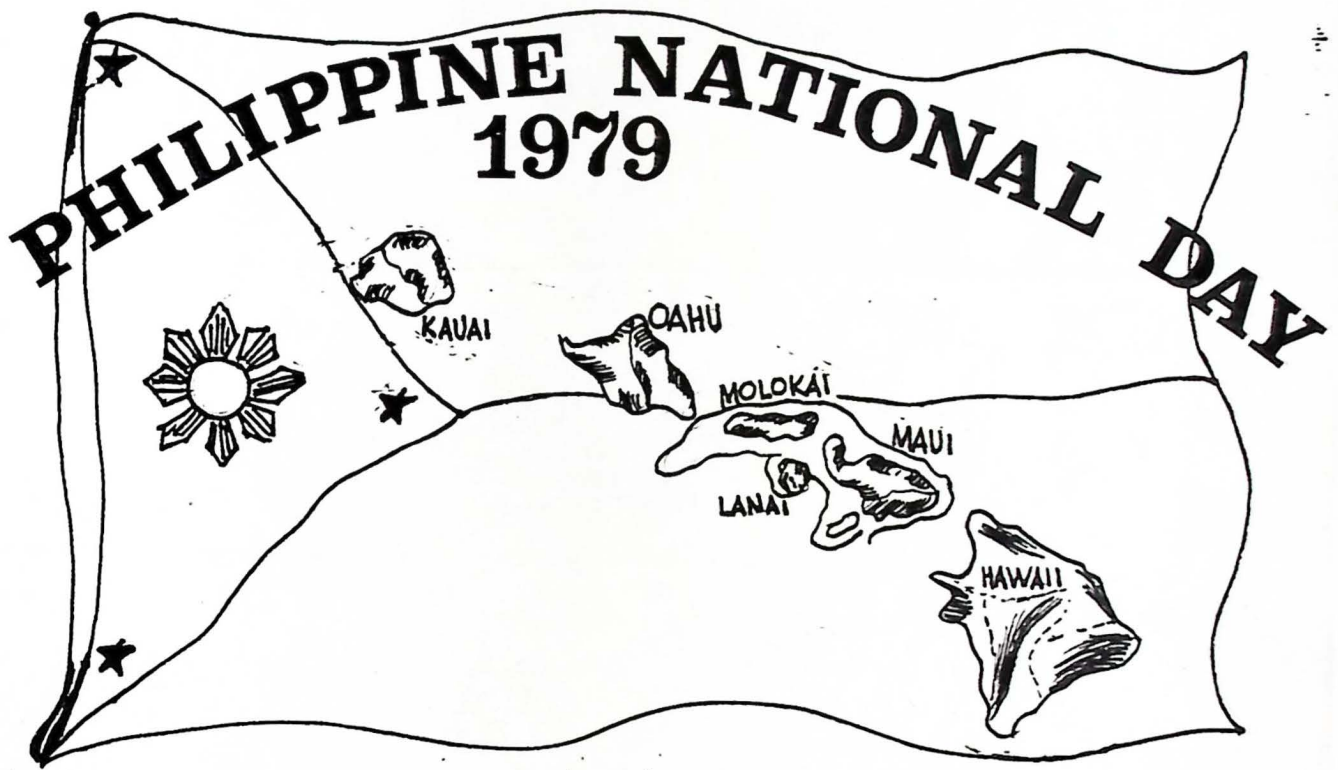
Labor Force on the Big 5

1. Del Monte	9,745
2. United Fruit	6,000
3. Dole	4,950
4. Sumitomo	4,220
5. Ataka	1,110
6. Others (6 farms)	2,975

Total 29,000

The Banana Industry:

Profits	\$20 million
Cost of Labor	\$5 million
Average Daily Wage	\$1 a day
Monthly	\$27 a month
Profit per hectare per year	\$960
Rate of return on investment	110%



Our Untold Heritage...

Over 70 Years in Hawaii

cultural program.

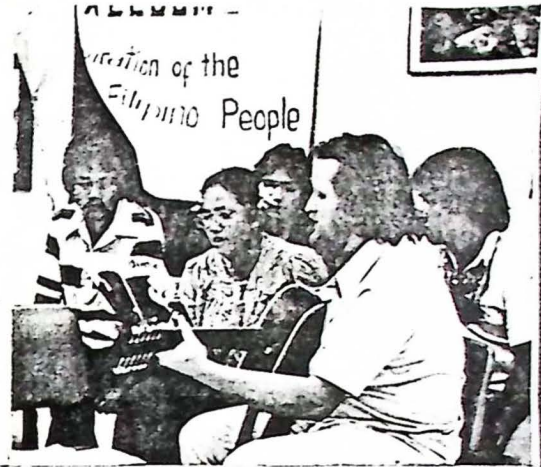
Kalihi-Waena School Cafetorium

JUNE 16 - sat. 7pm

1240 Gulick Ave.

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CHRP ACTIVITIES...



On May 5, the Committee for Human Rights in the Philippines and its good friends gathered to celebrate the committee's 1st birthday. For one year now the CHRP has published the Ti Pudno, sponsored speakers from the Philippines, and has raised support for the democratic forces in the Philippines. The CHRP looks forward to celebrating the downfall of the most ruthless tyrant our people has known. DOWN WITH MARTIAL LAW
FIGHT FOR DEMOCRACY!

The Committee for Human Rights - Philippines

The Committee for Human Rights in the Philippines is a group mainly of Filipinos who oppose martial law in the Philippines. We feel that there must be a return of all civil liberties existing before the declaration of martial law, we demand the release of all political prisoners, and because we know that the Marcos government could not live without it, we oppose all forms of U.S. aid to Marcos.

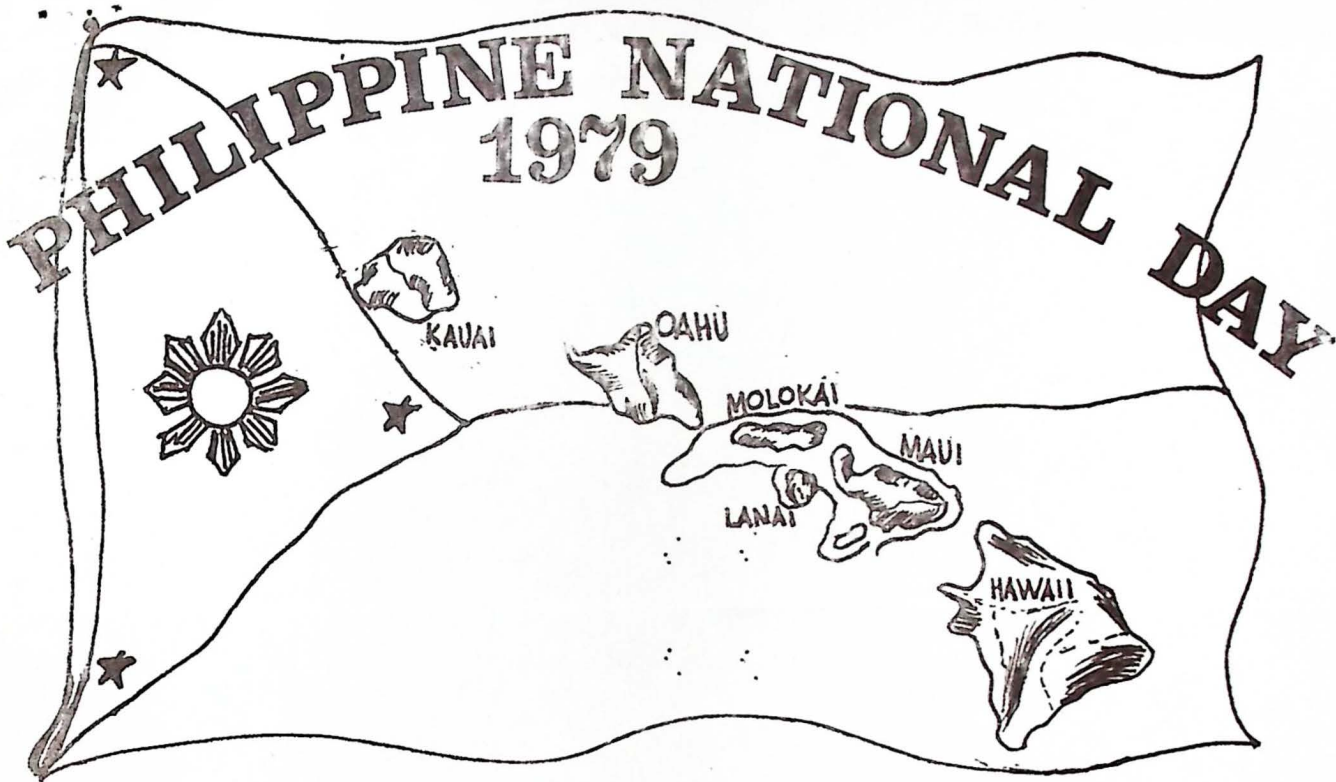
Our community here still has many ties to our homeland and we have taken the responsibility of informing the community. We aim to convey the truth about the situation in the Philippines and also to let people know about the movement here in the U.S. to bring an end to the Marcos dictatorship. We would be glad to hear from you, please write!

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