

CACC

NEWSLETTER

October 1, 1984

COMMUNIST REBELLION IN THE PHILIPPINES by Dr. John Whitehall

The people of the Philippine Islands, who now number 54 million, have a special relationship to the United States. This is due to a number of reasons which include: Close historic associations, the major U.S. military bases in the Philippines, and the fact that over one million Filipinos live in the United States.

The communists also consider the Philippines to be of vital importance in their strategic plans for world conquest, and two major attempts have been made to add the Philippines to the growing communist empire. In the late 1940s, a group of communist-led rebels, organized by the Partido Komunista Philipinos (PKP), which was closely affiliated with the Soviet Union, staged a major rebellion which achieved considerable temporary success. It was known as the Huk Rebellion and was waged by a 20,000 man Huk army.

This rebellion was finally defeated, and the PKP has declined in numbers and influence; but its remnants continue to be the faithful servants of the Soviet Union.

A second major rebellion is currently under way throughout the Philippines. It is organized by a different communist party known as the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP). This new party began as a Maoist pro-Chinese party, and it originated in the universities in the late 60s. It has progressed and has raised an army known as the New People's Army (NPA) which is engaged in active rebellion throughout, the Islands. This rebellion is most successful in the Southern Islands.

Dr. John Whitehall, accompanied by David Schwarz, conducted a series of anti-communist lectures and seminars in the Philippines during August. Dr. Whitehall spoke at university meetings, to gatherings of soldiers, to civic and business leaders, and in churches. He also interviewed four NPA activists who had been taken prisoners by the army. He reports as follows:

The New Peoples Army threatens to topple the current government in the Philippines. It is reported to have some 10,000 armed soldiers supported by a mass base of 300,000 willing or coerced villagers. It is also supported by a significant section of the Catholic Church. A conservative estimate is that over 100 Catholic priests and as many nuns have actually joined the fighting. Many have been recruited to the NPA through liberation theology which seeks to combine Christianity and Marxism.

Soviet Activity

There are reports that the CPP leadership is presently divided between those who wish to continue to follow China and those who wish to switch their loyalty to the Soviet Union. Captured NPA fighters report that supplies of weapons have already reached the NPA from Soviet sources.

There are many prongs to the Soviet attack on the Philippines. One prong operates through the front organizations, the World Peace Council and the World Federation of Trade Unions, which promote opposition to the U.S. bases in the Philippines and to so-called U.S. Imperialism. A second prong is the remnants of the PKP. A third is the courting of President Marcos and his administration. As the American press and Congress have become increasingly hostile to President Marcos, the Russians have become increasingly friendly. Art and trade exhibits are being held and economic aid is being offered to the harassed Marcos Government.

A reconciliation between the Soviet Union and the NPA would be of profound importance. There is an arsenal of weapons in pro-Soviet Vietnam, and these could be smuggled in quantities to the myriad of beaches and bays in the Philippines.

NPA Strategy

The NPA, the New Peoples Army, does not recruit directly into the CPP. It recruits on the basis of the three "isms": 1) Anti-imperialism which focuses upon opposition to the U.S. bases; 2) Anti-bureaucratic capitalism which seeks to exploit opposition to the Marcos Government and the business community; and 3) Anti-feudalism which opposes the landlords and seeks to exploit the hunger of the Filipino peasant for land ownership.

It is significant that each of the four NPA activists, whom I interviewed, stated that they were recruited by the promise that their desire to own land would be fulfilled.

Following recruitment, an intensive program of indoctrination is conducted and a selected few gain entrance into the communist party itself.

Meetings

Our meetings in the Philippines were organized mostly by Baptist pastors, but they were not limited to church gatherings. I spoke to large audiences in the universities, gatherings of ROTC students and soldiers, and convocations of civic employees and businessmen as well as to church meetings.

Danger

Most of the meetings were held in areas where the NPA is active, and we were often protected by a military guard. I was impressed by the number of Baptist pastors who are willing to take extraordinary risks to organize the seminars. The NPA operates assassination squads known as "sparrow" units, who select individuals for extermination. These individuals include active opponents of communism as well as military and civic leaders.

I was also impressed by the enthusiasm for the message which was characteristic of the university students and faculty members. It is deplorable, but not surprising, that so little genuine education on the true nature of communism has been given.

Labor leaders were most responsive, and there is an open door into the labor movement for the message.

Here is a summary of some of the meetings held, and comments on the attendance and reaction:

DUMAGUETE NEGROS Silliman University, 600; Foundation University, 350.

Both of these engagements were "convocations" in which the university authorities had invited us officially and organized for as many students as possible to attend.

CEBU, CEBU Baptist Church, 500.

At this meeting one of the congregation, a labor leader in Cebu, was enthusiastic for us to return to speak to Labor Unions in that area. There was also general enthusiasm for us to spend a week in Cebu speaking to churches and universities.

CAGAYAN DE ARO MINDANAO Fourth Infantry Division, 250; University, 700; Media conference, 25.

We also had detailed conversations with a number of military leaders in the Civil Relations Service which is using Crusade material in this educational program.

DAVAO MINDANAO Ateneo University, 200; Military leaders, media representatives, business leaders, 250.

This was a particularly important meeting because most of the "leaders" in Davao were present. It lasted for the whole afternoon and question time was, as usual, brisk. This meeting was reported derisively in the national press as "military hour of prayer" or some such title. The military general and his colonel were present, and both publicly

thanked us for coming??which, of course, may have had its counter?productive aspect.

I had long discussions with the general and colonel concerning the Civil Relations Service, the Media Relations Bureau of the Army, and other people involved in the educational program of the army about communism. They were very enthusiastic about the Crusade message and arranged for me to interview their NPA prisoners. They also invited me to go with them on one of their civil relation forays. I accepted their invitation gratefully.

Toril Church 500

Afternoon seminar for church leaders and workers.

Butuan 300

Those attending were military leaders, business men, and university students. Butuan is the center of severe fighting against the NPA which has recently involved the Air Force in bombing raids. The shanties around Butuan are overflowing with refugees from the mountains

In the evening we had a meal with the female governor and her chief administrator, along with military leaders. About 40 were present. It was a lecture and question session which revealed their great interest. They have invited us to come back to speak again to a wider audience, and offered to help us gain entrance into the Catholic universities. They would like us to conduct radio programs.

The pastor at Butuan, a very courageous and intelligent Filipino who spent several years in language training, has offered to translate our material into Cebuano.

Gingoog City, 250

The mayor and the chief administrator closed the government offices for the day and directed their employees to attend the seminar, which was held in the City Hall. There were about 250 people present. The local pastor reports that their enthusiasm is now running high. They have invited us back to speak to their local teachers and other people. An American missionary, Roy Piers and his wife have been very helpful in Gingoog.

MALAYBALAY MINDANAO State College, over 1,000; Musuan Central Mindanao University, 1500.

Following the lecture at Musuan Central Mindanao University, I met with the university faculty. Forty people attended a meal, followed by a long question and answer session. Musuan University has invited us back. They were very enthusiastic. Musuan is about 40 kilometres out of Malaybalay town in the midst of nowhere. It began as an agricultural university and has now extended its faculties. About 12 months ago, NPA cadres assassinated two government workers about a hundred yards from the university gates, and it is believed that the assassins were previous students. The high mountains in this Central Mindanao area are refuges for the NPA.

Seventh Day Adventist College Mountainview Central Mindanao, 800

Several months ago, the NPA occupied this university and held it for ransom. That the faculty organized the meeting with such enthusiasm, speaks a great deal for their commitment and courage.

What Must Be Done

The opportunities in the Philippines are as great as the needs. Crying needs are:

1. A continuing lecture program at universities and other institutions.
2. An indepth period of training for selected pastors.
3. More literature, in the local dialect, at a simpler level. This could be directed to the "3 'isms" which are so effective

in recruiting the NPA. As far as I can see, not one jot of ink has been used to explain to the peasants that communism, in fact, will not give them their land. There needs to be, at university level, serious refutation of Lenin's imperialism.

I am planning another series of lectures and seminars in November.

INTERVIEWS WITH CAPTURED NPA COMMANDERS

By Dr. John Whitehall

I was granted permission by the military authorities to interview four imprisoned commanders of the NPA. These were young men in their middle 20s who had been captives for a substantial time and who were giving limited cooperation to the military forces. I will refer to them as Commanders A, B, C, and D and attempt to summarize significant information from the interviews.

Recruitment

There was a remarkable similarity in the recruitment of all four. They had succumbed to the promise that they would be granted ownership of their own land. The experience of Commander A is typical.

Commander A was single and had been a tenant farmer in the cornfields. He had joined the NPA when he was 20 years old, after NPA workers had spoken to him about "the three 'isms'" Imperialism which declared that "the U.S. was controlling the Philippines and getting its wealth;" Feudalism which stated "the peasants are deprived of their land;" and Bureaucratic Capitalism which maintained that "officials holding key positions in the Philippine Government are corrupt and abusing their positions."

These explanations for his poverty seemed to fit his problem so he joined the struggle of the NPA. He was especially attracted by the promise that after the total reformation of the Philippines, he would own land in a society where each would receive according to his needs. He had always longed to own land. He was also attracted by the promise that when the Philippines had been "liberated", high school and lower school would be free and that there would be equality for all.

Activity

During the stage of recruitment, little, if anything, is said about communism. He learned about that subject, little by little, as he progressed. In six months he was not only bearing weapons, but had been made a member of a propaganda unit of the NPA known as a "SemiLegal Team" (SLT). These teams seek to politicize the countryside by promoting the "three 'isms". They would begin with a survey of a local population, learn its major problems, and then begin to talk to the people about solutions to those problems. Support for the NPA was at first encouraged, then coerced. All families must make regular donations, with richer people giving more in proportion to their income. In return the NPA provides "protection and justice." An underground form of law and order is established in which "law breakers are dealt with in "peoples courts" and submitted to "on the spot justice." Watching the shooting of thieves or the cutting of the throat of a rapist, would often, I was told, have a salutary effect on lesser criminals such as alcoholics or wife beaters. The NPA had expanded the definition of criminals to include: informers, fanatics, uncooperative mayors, police, soldiers, and anti-communists.

There is little a peasant can do to resist. No one can deny support demanded by the NPA and continue to live in unprotected rural areas. The only option for those who refuse to support the NPA is to flee. Refugees from the rural areas are crowding into the relative security of certain towns, preferring life in the hovel of an urban slum to living under the NPA.

Communist Party Membership

After six months as a political worker, Commander A became a candidate member of the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP). After another year of indoctrination, testing, and service, he became a full member of the party. Eventually he rose to the position of secretary of a regional committee. In this capacity, he was responsible for teaching Marxism-Leninism which to him was "the only weapon that can serve the party."

Party members were expected to maintain a high standard of selfless dedication. Five golden rules were designed to guide their conduct. These were:

1. To serve the people.
2. To wage a protracted struggle.
3. To serve proletarian internationalism.
4. To remove "liberalism" in the ranks and to maintain the internal discipline of Lenin known as "democratic centralism."
5. To correct false impressions and thinking in the party. Members were taught not to be "sectarian" or to attempt to do their own thing. Erring ideas were corrected in group sessions of criticism.

The members of the communist party were the only ones entrusted with the information about the ultimate aims of the party. The ordinary NPA recruits were kept busy giving attention to local pressing problems.

Communist Aims

Commander B was particularly frank about the aims of the communist party. He affirmed that "the party sought total control and would kill all opposition." He said that a coalition government would be formed after the overthrow of the Marcos Government but that this would be merely a temporary expedient. In due course "the CPP would take control of the coalition and then there would be the dictatorship of the proletariat as communist ideology directs."

Executions

Executions are a normal communist tactic. Nevertheless, when Commander B stated that he had witnessed over 50 executions and presided over 20, it came as quite a shock. He was in his early 20s and had a lively personality. His intellect was sharp, his grin was wide, and his conversation energetic and warm. He appeared free and open and was rather good looking despite irregular teeth and pigmented gums. Despite this, I felt I was in the company of a budding "Pol Pot".

Each of the four young men had been involved in the execution of many victims. "Countless" was the word they actually used. When pressed for a number, Commander B admitted to over 50, while each of the others acknowledged about 20 each. They were all somewhat reluctant to give statistics. "Who were the victims?" I asked. They replied: "Informers, fanatics, despotic mayors, rapists, police and soldiers; oh! and anti?communists, especially anti?communists," they declared.

They also acknowledged the assassination of certain government workers, such as surveyors to prevent the sub?division of rural land, and forest guards who prevented the people from squatting on the lands.

Sparrow Units

Squads of assassins known as "Sparrow Units" are active in the southern towns in Mindanao. A "Sparrow Unit" consists of two or four NPA cadres who will swoop on an unsuspecting policeman or soldier, often in a crowded market place, kill him and take his weapon. Recently they have killed in order to demonstrate the impotence of the military. I had been told of the work of these teams by a military leader who had regaled me with a litany of terror as we drove through one of the southern towns. "See that market, two soldiers were killed there; on this corner, another one; on that street corner, another; in that house, another."

It was not surprising that the commander rode in a two?jeep convoy. It is also not surprising that the military is feeling increased frustration as casualties mount at the hands of unseen assassins.

Agricultural Policy

Commander C provided detailed information of the agrarian policy of the NPA. This policy has three phases:

NPA propagandists promise eventual ownership of land to the peasants but this will only take place after the triumph of the revolution. The first phase operates during the revolution and it involves agitation for a more equal distribution of the produce of the land. Demands are made that poorer tenants must receive a bigger share of tenanted land and that richer peasants must pay proportionally higher taxes. In practice this involves extortion from land owners, companies, factories, and businessmen. This extortion is termed euphemistically, "a tactical alliance."

The second phase takes place after the revolution. The land will be divided among the peasants. Despite this ownership, they will not be able to sell it to each other, but only to the government.

The third phase is known only to upper party members. As Commander C says, "The lower level was not informed." This phase was the collectivization of the land, which means its effective ownership and control by the communist party. Commander C said the party believed that "the people in a long process will have a deeper idea of communism and will give up their land freely."

Priests Nuns and Pastors

Commanders A, B, and C had known personally and fought alongside a total of over 20 priests and, surprisingly, more nuns. Commander A knew seven nuns in his branch of the NPA and one of them had become a full member of the communist party, while three were candidate members. One commander said he knew a protestant pastor who belonged to the United Church of Christ of the Philippines who was a party member.

I asked how a priest or a nun could be recruited into an organization of atheists. The commander replied, "At the start they do not tell the priests and nuns that communists do not believe in God, but the longer they stay in the NPA, the more likely they are to become unbelievers. Some lose their belief in God and accept the ideology of communism."

Conflict Within the Communists

All is not rosy within communist ranks. All four commanders expressed considerable disillusionment with their party, if not with its doctrines. They complained that "the people at the top lived as bourgeoisie and they gave privileges to their friends." They also complained that "proletarian leadership" does not exist and that leaders are mostly from the bourgeois class. They even accused certain higher party members of financial corruption, which is allegedly a vice limited to the bourgeoisie.

Commentary

Many are recruited into the NPA by the promise of land. If they knew the history of communist land distribution, they would be less likely to be deceived and ensnared. They must be told that the communists take away any land they have given, once they are strong enough to do so.

A well-written pamphlet telling the story of the Soviet Communist seizure of the land in the Ukraine, with the resulting famine and death of 6 million, would work wonders.

THE 1984 CHRISTMAS CARD

Crusade Christmas cards are now available, and we are very enthusiastic about both the design and the message of this year's card. The design depicts an attractive multi-racial group surrounding a globe representing the world, and this appropriate Christmas message of Jesus is attractively super-inscribed:

I AM COME THAT THEY MIGHT HAVE LIFE AND THAT THEY MIGHT HAVE IT MORE ABUNDANTLY

The colors are blue, green, red and yellow. Inside the card these messages are on facing pages:

THE RADIANT FUTURE

Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things, which God hath prepared them that love Him. (1 Cor. 2:9)

May your life, and the lives of all you love, abound in health, happiness and joyful service this Christmas Season and throughout the coming year. To help assure a gift has been given to support the ministry of the Christian Anti-Communism Crusade.

In accordance with our established practice, we do not sell these cards. We supply them freely, with envelopes, to those who request them. We do ask that the one requesting the cards give a donation to support the work of the Crusade.

Through these cards, an expression of love and appreciation may be sent to family, friends, and business associates, while helping preserve their freedom and life through support of the Crusade ministry.

If you wish to have your name printed on the card with or without a brief personal message please let us know.

When ordering the cards, please ask for a definite number and give a street address rather than a post office box to facilitate delivery.

Write for a sample, or send your order to: Christian Anti-Communism Crusade, Box 890, Long Beach, California 90801

SEMINARS IN COSTA RICA AND PERU

A Crusade team, led by the Rev. James Colbert, has just returned from conducting a series of seminars in Costa Rica and Peru. Once again they heard this refrain repeatedly: "Why has not someone told us these things about communism before this?" A student said: "For the first time we now have arguments which will refute the arguments of the communists in our universities."

A report on the seminars will be published in the October 15 newsletter.

The message, Why Communism Kills, is now available in pamphlet form and on tape. For Christmas cards, tapes, literature, envelope and bumper stickers, further information about communism, and a free copy of this newsletter, write to: Christian Anti-Communism Crusade, Box 890, Long Beach California 90801

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Christian Anti-Communism Crusade

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Dear Friend,

Which of the following possible disasters would pose the greater threat to the security of the U.S.A.? 1) The communist conquest of the Philippines, or 2) The communist conquest of Central America.

I find it very difficult to answer that question as the communist conquest of either area would constitute a giant step towards their ultimate goal—the conquest of the U.S.A.

The communists realize the importance of both areas and are waging vicious, sustained and effective guerrilla wars in each one.

The communists must be exposed and opposed in both the Philippines and Central America, and this is precisely what

the Crusade is doing. The accompanying newsletter is devoted to the critical situation in the Philippines and reports the work of Dr. John Whitehall in that country. Our next newsletter will contain the report of the Rev. James Colbert and his Crusade team on seminars conducted in Costa Rica and Peru during August and September.

Dr. Whitehall, whom I regard as our foster son, was assisted by David, our natural son. John took time away from his pediatric medical practice in Sydney, Australia, and David from his work as an airline pilot.

Both John and David were filled with admiration for the devotion and courage of the Crusade workers and supporters in the Philippines. Many of them are Baptist pastors, and they live lives of the greatest frugality. As David says, they live "on the smell of an oil rag." Nevertheless, they willingly face great personal danger in order to give the Christian Anti-Communism message. Henry Cabugwas takes a projector and presents an anti-communist film in areas where the communist assassination teams, "the sparrow units", are active. He has a wife and two little children, and has been unable to afford insurance premiums, so John and David took out a modest insurance policy for him which will provide some help for his wife and children if he is killed.

David introduced John at most meetings. During the introduction, he stressed that the Crusade receives no financial support from the U.S. Government, the C.I.A., or the Marcos Regime. He told somewhat skeptical audiences that the Crusade is supported by voluntary gifts from freedomloving, God-honoring U.S. citizens who give sacrificially. To some, who have been misinformed by communists and others, this sounds incredible, but "truth is stranger than fiction."

I am asking??pleading??for an income of \$2 million this year. I confess that when I proposed this sum, I doubted that it could be raised. I am now much more optimistic as our friends and supporters have been giving generously. The income at the end of August is about \$915, 000. This means that \$1,085,000 must be raised during the last four months of the year. This is difficult, but not impossible. It will require a number of substantial gifts as well as thousands of smaller ones. A good way to start is for each Crusade donor to attempt to double the gift given in 1983.

I am confident that many of you have caught the vision of both the danger and the opportunity and that you will rise to the challenge, inspired by your love for God, your family, and your country.

With Christian love,

Fred Schwarz