

CACC

NEWSLETTER

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THE PAST PRESENT AND FUTURE OF THE PHILIPPINES

By Dr. John Whitehall

During the historic days of the Philippines presidential election and its revolutionary aftermath, a Crusade team was conducting anti-communism seminars in the southern islands where the Communist New Peoples Army (NPA) is most active. We traveled to Manila just in time to observe first-hand the events which led to the resignation and departure of President Marcos.

Despite election fever, the interest of those attending the seminars was sharper than I can recall in any of our preceding seminars held during the past five years. A wide range of people attended including governors, mayors, trade union officers, government employees, nuns, seminarians, students and soldiers. Each meeting usually lasted several hours with the flood of questions exhausting all available time.

Since our last visit in November, 1985, it was obvious that the minds of people had been awakened more to the growth of the power of the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) and its military wing, the New Peoples Army, (NPA).

After virtually every session, we received invitations to stay longer and to return as soon as possible. Speaking engagements in major universities are now pending.

Anti-Communism Groups

As a result of the seminars we have held since 1985, numerous anti-communist groups have been formed throughout the country. These groups are autonomous and not branches of the Crusade, but we do help, guide, and support them in every possible way. We paid to transport, house and nourish leaders of these groups to attend a conference in Cebu where experiences were shared and a program of united action designed.

Since representatives came from all the main regions of the Philippines, we now have the opportunity of distributing literature to schools, universities, and churches throughout the country. We have ordered a first printing of 20,000 copies of "Why Communism Kills" in a local dialect to be distributed by the members of these groups. Work has begun on the translation of this booklet and "Why I Am Against Communism" into other dialects so that we can expand the channels of distribution.

The Ex-Communist

One man who has been responsible for the inspiration and formation of a number of these groups is Jun Alcober, a former leader of the CPP and the NPA. Accompanied by 20 others, he went to the Island of Samar in the early 70s. Now, after the killing of thousands of civilians, the majority of Samar is in the hands of the CPP.

Alcober describes the reign of terror, which the CPP imposed on the island. Any who opposed the communists were dealt with in "people's courts". He tells how at times the villagers were forced to torture the victims in order to establish collective guilt.

Describing the life of a communist in the mountains, Alcober relates the fanaticism that drove him and his wife through those years. He tells how they submitted to the daily "catechism" sessions and how they guided their actions by reference to Mao's little Red Book in the manner a Christian would be guided by the Bible.

Eventually, he and his wife became sickened by the fanaticism and the killing and sought God in a way he understood Him to be. He asked forgiveness and went into hiding from the communists. He says he wanted to worship in the church but couldn't because he knew that many of the priests and nuns were in one way or another willing or unwilling agents of the communists. "How could I worship when the priest was giving a seminar that would have been written by the communists?" he says.

Needed? Paper and a Press

Alcober wants to write and distribute pamphlets containing articles against the communists, but cannot afford to buy the paper, let alone a printing press. He receives no support from the government, and he cannot go out and get a job because he is "wanted" by the communists.

Refugees

The communist killings are continuing. In one island we visited a refugee camp by the sea to which members of two villages had fled and were now living in poverty. They preferred the difficulties of this life to the continuous killings carried out by NPA activists who visited their villages periodically.

Describing the conduct of the NPA, they said the communists were friendly at first, but then they extorted taxation, demanding money and food each month, and "we were forced to attend training sessions on communist doctrines. Soon thereafter they killed some of our men who were alleged to be informers." Over time, 41 had been killed.

One day they came and took six men from their homes. Two of these men were father and son. They first beat them severely. The captives were then bound and paraded before a pit that had been dug in preparation. They were surrounded by armed soldiers of the NPA who began to sing a hymn to Mao:

"Mao Tse?tung has given the right doctrine; the thought of Mao is good. Don't forget the theory of Marxism? Leninism??Mao Tse?tung thought."

After the hymn, the six men were stabbed and pushed into the pit. One young man had a miraculous escape. Bursting his bonds, he dashed for the jungle and escaped because the NPA refrained from shooting at him for fear of hitting one of their own. He ran to his village whereupon the inhabitants all gathered whatever belongings they could carry and fled to the seaside, leaving their houses and ancestral lands until it is safe enough to return. They were waiting hopefully for the army of the government to clear their area of the communists so that they could return.

Out of interest, I asked if they were opposed to the government soldiers. They replied that they had never been harmed by the government, but were angry that some soldiers had stolen some kerosene lamps from the deserted villages. They said the NPA was now stealing their coffee crop.

Unions

A unionist we met told how the communist?front unions were intimidating the genuine unions and how he had nearly been killed by the communists. He had been a "left?wing" unionist, but not a communist, and had worked in a number of tactical alliances with the communists in order to "cripple the economy of the country" by mass strikes and protests so that the government would fall.

He had been summoned to a meeting in a nearby village. On arrival, he was taken to a strange house where six armed men had alternately urged him to join the communist forces and threatened him. He refused to join the CPP. When night fell, he was driven away to a lonely spot and shot in the head. Miraculously the bullet traveled around the skull under the skin and did not penetrate the bone, and he survived.

He believed the communists tried to kill him for the propaganda value. The government would have been blamed for his death, and his union would have been provoked into widespread strike activity which would have gravely hurt the already fragile economy.

U S Bases

It is a communist ambition to destroy the economy in order to create the conditions which encourage "people's war", so the agitation to remove the U. S. bases in the Philippines is motivated by more than just the desire for independence.

The U. S. pays \$100 million a year in rent for the bases. Forty thousand Filipinos are directly employed while another 40,000 are indirect beneficiaries. It is estimated that the Americans at the bases expend over \$100,000 a day in food and rent in the area surrounding the bases. The economic value of the bases to the Philippines is enormous. If the bases were closed, the effect on the economy of the Philippines would be beyond measure, and the widespread poverty would recruit more into the "people's war" that the communists say is the only solution for the problems of the Philippines.

The strategic effect of the closure of the bases is likewise immeasurable. The industry of Japan, Korea, Taiwan and the Philippines is dependent upon mid-eastern oil which arrives in vulnerable, slow-moving tankers, and practically all the products of the area, including those of Japan, pass by in ships.

At the very time the USSR is increasing its power in the region, there is a constant cry, supported by many non-communists, to get the Americans to leave Subic Bay naval base and Clark Field air base.

If they did so, their leaving would harm drastically the economy of the Philippines and the rest of East Asia. The bases of the Soviet Union in Vietnam could enable them to threaten to interrupt the oil supply, thereby creating fear and trepidation in many countries of the region.

LABOR UNIONISTS LISTEN INTENTLY

Soviet Activity

There are alarming signs of Soviet attempts to increase Soviet influence in the Philippines, especially with the Maoist Communist Party. An observer at the last plenary session of the CPP held in the jungles of Mindanao reports that he heard that the Soviet Union was offering: 1) Money; 2) Material, including weapons; 3) Books and books and books, which are reported to already be in the warehouse at the embassy.

Vietnam

Were the Soviet Union to successfully woo the CPP and bring it into an alliance with the Communist Party of Vietnam, it would be easy to transport weapons from Vietnam to the Philippines. It is already reported that a team of Filipinos is undergoing training in Vietnam.

Problems of the new Government

The new Aquino government has an unenviable task. The 7,000 islands have little or no real industry and widespread poverty prevails. Agricultural products are dependent upon fragile international markets. Other problems include: Population growth, inadequate health services, extensive corruption, and Moslem separatist activity. To this must be added a well-organized and growing CPP which is determined to cause widespread civil war and to impose its dictatorship by violence.

The temper of the CPP was shown by one of its first acts after President Marcos left his palace. While others were celebrating the victory of Cory Aquino, groups organized by the CPP ransacked the armory of the palace and stole as many weapons as they could.

The communists are preparing for the next round. According to their doctrine, the recent revolution, which overthrew President Marcos and installed President Aquino, is the bourgeois democratic revolution similar to that which overthrew the Czar of Russia. This must be followed by the proletarian revolution similar to Lenin's seizure of power in November, 1917. The communists will be recruiting, agitating, deceiving, extorting and killing in preparation for the coming proletarian revolution.

We must continue to inform, recruit, and support Filipinos to tell this truth throughout the islands.

COMMUNIST "SCIENCE IN SOUTH AFRICA

The communists consider themselves scientists who harness existing social forces and use them to achieve a desired goal, just as the sailor harnesses and uses the wind.

One powerful social force is the opposition to apartheid in South Africa. The desired goal is Soviet control of the mineral resources and manpower of Southern Africa and Soviet domination of the sea route around the Cape of Good Hope.

The primary organization which the communists are using in South Africa is the African National Congress (ANC). This organization is gaining international recognition and respectability while it remains under communist domination, and unabashedly uses violence. Bishop Tutu commends it; South African businessmen consult with it; and John Johnson, the British Undersecretary of State for African Affairs at the British foreign office, recently conferred with three ANC leaders, thereby breeching long-standing British policy forbidding formal contacts with groups which sponsor violence.

The ANC president, Oliver Tambo, is being lionized internationally. He was a guest at the conference of the British Labor Party, at a meeting of the foreign affairs committee of the House of Commons, and at a dinner given by the Secretary General of the British Commonwealth, Shridath Ramphal, at Marlborough House in London.

The ANC is winning many victories in the propaganda war and becoming increasingly recognized as the voice of anti-apartheid South Africa. Despite this, its actual strength in South Africa is debatable. It opposed the school boycott by black students, but the so-called "children" in the black ghettos enforced the boycott nonetheless.

The world-famous author and former head of the U. N. Secretariat, Conner Cruise O'Brien, describes the "children" thus in an article entitled, "What Can Become of South Africa?" in the March, 1986 edition of the ATLANTIC MONTHLY:

"The children are those who attend school, when they choose to do so. Some of them are as old as twenty-four; most of them are teenagers; pre-teens, down to eight or so, play supportive enforcement roles. It is the children—in this context the militants among them—who have made life impossible, often literally, for the agents of white power in black townships. It is the children who enforce the boycotts, whether of schools or of white shops. It is the children who discipline those who are seen to step out of line.

"The children see themselves as the pacemakers of the revolution, and, like other revolutionaries, they make use of terror. But the guillotine was merciful compared with the children's chosen method of execution: Burning alive, with a gasoline-filled rubber tire, 'the necklace,' around one's neck. The children humorously refer to each such case as a 'Kentucky,' after Kentucky Fried Chicken. A Kentucky and its necklace do not represent spontaneous outbreaks of popular rage. They are a standard ritualized penalty applied to black men and women designated as informers or collaborators." (Pages 42-43)

The ANC is not a democratic organization, and, being illegal, it does not announce its membership, so its real strength in South Africa is debatable. There is no debate, however, about its present relationship to the South African Communist Party (SACP), nor about the support it receives from the Soviet Union.

Role of the Soviet Union

The ANC was founded in 1912 by moderate, mission-educated blacks who made common cause with white liberals. This changed in the 1950s when the ANC established close links with the SACP. Originally it advocated non-violence, but changed this policy after it was banned in the early 1960s.

In 1961, Oliver Tambo left South Africa and established the ANC in exile. Shortly thereafter, its military wing, Umkhonto We Sizwe (Spear of the Nation), was set up.

Umkhonto We Sizwe has training camps in Angola and Tanzania, where specialists from the Soviet Union and East Germany participate in the training of recruits. Estimates of the number of guerrillas vary with some being as high as 10,000. All ANC militants undergo military training, and outstanding students are given short courses in the Soviet Union.

Communist Strength in ANC

The SACP, which is the loyal servant of Moscow, maintains a powerful position in both the ANC and Umkhonto We Sizwe. At the ANC conference held in Kabwe, Zambia, in 1985, the executive committee was expanded from 22 to 30 members and between 12 and 15 are believed to be members of the SACP. This is an unusually high percentage of communist members for any organization. The communists are most skillful at controlling organizations with as little as 10 percent of the membership. They do this by demonstrating superior devotion to the cause of the organization and being willing to sacrifice time and energy on its behalf. There can be no doubt that they effectively control the executive committee of the ANC since they have nearly 50 percent of its membership.

The ANC elected five non-blacks to the executive committee for the first time at their recent conference. One of these is the long-time communist activist, Joe Slovo, who has been the chief strategist and effective commander of Umkhonto We Sizwe. A "war council" was formed with Slovo as a member.

This follows the long-established practice of the Communist Party of having a disciplined communist in charge of the revolutionary military forces while the spokesman for the revolutionary political organization is a non-communist. This assures that a communist will be in control of the nation if the revolution is successful since "political power grows out of the barrel of a gun."

The Stakes in South Africa

The war being waged in South Africa is not only for the overthrow of apartheid. It is to provide the Soviet Union with a near monopoly of the strategic minerals essential for hardening the steel used in manufacturing weapons, and to place the Soviet Union athwart the transportation route round the Cape of Good Hope. Control of South Africa would also give the Soviet Union most of the world's gold, and cause a major tilt in the world balance of power in favor of the Soviet Union.

The United States and the Western World would be wise to cease all support for the ANC and to cooperate with other popular organizations promoting economic, social, and political equality in South Africa such as Inkatha, organized and led by Chief Buthelezi of the Zulus.

Communism teaches and promotes inequality. It alleges that the population is divided into two unequal classes—the proletariat or workers, and the bourgeoisie or property owners—and that the bourgeoisie must be destroyed. Karl Marx wrote in the Manifesto of the Communist Party: "By 'individual' you mean no other person than the bourgeois, than the middle-class owner of property. This person must, indeed, be swept out of the way, and made impossible."

WHAT IS A POLITICAL PRISONER

What is in a name? What is a political prisoner? When an individual murders for a political purpose, is he a criminal or a politician? If he is caught, tried and convicted, should he be classified as a political prisoner or a murderer?

The communists sometimes claim that all blacks in prison in America are political prisoners.

In contrast, Gorbachev claims that there are no political prisoners in the Soviet Union. On February 4, he affirmed this in the French communist newspaper, L' HUMANITE. He stated: "We do not put people on trial for their convictions."

Shcharansky points out what happens to those with unorthodox political convictions in the Soviet Union. He states that of the original one hundred members of the Soviet Helsinki Watch Committee, 50 are in prison, labor camps, psychiatric hospitals or internal exile; twenty have been released, and twenty have emigrated.

SOVIET OIL CRISIS

The Soviet Union will be exporting less oil this year and receiving less per gallon. This is due to reduced oil production and the drop in world oil prices.

It is estimated that the sale of oil produces 60-80 percent of Soviet hard-currency earnings, and this reduced export income will have a profound effect on the national economy, but less effect on their foreign policy.

The Soviet leaders boast that they are obeying the instruction of Lenin to place the needs of the "World Revolution" and the establishment of the "World Dictatorship of the Proletariat" ahead of the basic needs of the Russian people so their expenditures in such countries as Afghanistan, Angola, Cuba and Nicaragua will be maintained while the citizens of the USSR will be called upon to tighten their belts even more than at present.

COMMUNISM'S GREATEST CRIME

The greatest crime a communist can commit is to obtain state power and then to lose it. Few communists have committed this crime.

No communist regime has yet been overthrown by its own people, however dissatisfied they may be. In the one country where the communists have been thrown out of power, Grenada, the assistance of external military force was needed.

The resources of the international communist movement are being used to maintain the communists in power in Nicaragua. Will the Nicaraguan people be deserted by those who profess to support democratic freedom? Is the loss of freedom by the people of Nicaragua a prelude to its loss by the people of the U.S.A.?

Communism comes to power by deception and remains in power by force. Deception can be defeated by knowledge and understanding of the truth. The best way to prevent communist recruitment and conquest is to learn and proclaim the truth about communist doctrines, deeds and devices. Prevention is better than cure.

THE STAKES IN NICARAGUA

Many a thief has escaped by crying "stop thief," and thereby causing his pursuers to chase a phantom. This technique is being used by certain U. S. Congressmen and media personalities to divert attention from the conduct and objectives of the communists in Nicaragua and to focus it upon a phantom called "red-baiting" or "McCarthyism".

The White House Director of Communications, Patrick J. Buchanan, wrote a column captioned "The Contras Need Our Help" which was published in the March 17 edition of the WASHINGTON POST NATIONAL WEEKLY. In this article he stated the following:

1. Moscow has supplied the Nicaraguan Communists with tanks, armored vehicles and gunships worth \$350 million in 1985. 2. The "Contra" forces fighting the communists are suffering badly because they lack military supplies. "Bandrols and bandages are inadequate substitutes for surface-to-air missiles in combatting the Hind helicopters that have made a slaughterhouse of Afghanistan."

Fidel Castro has sent 3500 combat advisors to aid the Nicaraguan Communists while the U. S. is limited to 55 advisors to keep El Salvador democratic and free.

4. The communist character of the Sandinista forces is now indisputable. 5. Desertion of the democratic resistance by Congress would lead, as night follows day, to the loss of Central America. 6. If the Sandinista plans succeed, a floodtide of refugees from Central America would inundate the United States, bringing with it spies, saboteurs, terrorists and assassins.

If Central America falls, the communist forces will reach San Diego and the Rapid Deployment Force could be needed along the Rio Grande.

These are substantive and serious charges which call for examination and debate. The rational response would be to

examine the evidence in support of these charges and to face the two questions: 1) Are these charges true? and 2) What can and should be done to prevent the communist conquest of Central America and the invasion of the U. S. A.?

But, no! Those vital questions are ignored. Buchanan dared to write: "Whose side are you on?... With the vote on Contra aid, the Democratic Party will reveal whether it stands with Ronald Reagan and the Resistance??or Daniel Ortega and the Communists." (Page 29)

The villain! The red?baiter! The McCarthyite! Cast him forth from the fellowship of decent man. Forget about the tyranny to the south, the helicopters, tanks, and artillery; forget about the Cubans, the Libyans, the East Germans and Russians who form the Communist International in Managua; forget about the genocide of the Miskito Indians, the persecution of the church, the censorship of the press, the tyranny of the block committees, the militarization of the entire population and the export of revolution. Throw a tantrum and accuse Buchanan and Reagan of divisiveness and slander.

Let all who cherish freedom face the facts. Honesty, intelligence and understanding will lead to the acceptance of temperate reasoned appeals of President Reagan.

PROCLAIM THE TRUTH

Write to the Christian Anti?Communism Crusade, P.O. Box 890, Long Beach, CA 90801 to secure: Literature, audio tapes, video tapes, envelope and bumper stickers, and a free copy of this newsletter.

Distribute copies of "Why Communism Kills" to family, friends, students, teachers, police officers and legislators. Support the Crusade program to place this message in the hands of all U. S. students. The truth is our most effective weapon to prevent the recruitment of youthful idealists for communist causes.

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