

THE KABATAANG MAKABAYAN

The "Programme of Kabataang Makabayan" contained in the organization's handbook declares:

"Kabataang Makabayan pledges itself as the vanguard of the Filipino youth in seeking full national freedom and democratic reforms and in combatting imperialism and feudalism.

"In order to achieve its national-democratic mission, Kabataang Makabayan is determined to integrate into the anti-imperialist and anti-feudal fight the vigor of students, young workers, young peasants, young teachers, young professionals, young soldiers, and all other young men and women who compose the vast majority of our young nation."

Began with 200

This integration mission has now been achieved largely by the Kabataang Makabayan. From 200 charter members in 1964, the KM gradually expanded, organizing chapters in various colleges and universities in Greater Manila, in the provinces, the outlying cities, and through relentless recruitment of members. Chapters have also been organized among young workers in factories, and among young peasants and farm workers in various parts of the country.

The latest count, based on membership forms submitted to the KM secretariat,

shows that KM members total 12,000. Of the total, 4,000 are in Greater Manila. According to the KM secretariat, however, only about 8,000 members are active. Of the 8,000, more than 2,000 are in Greater Manila.

According to the KM constitution, any Filipino citizen between 15 and 40 "who subscribes to the principles, objectives and current decisions of this association shall be eligible for membership therein." On application and compliance with requirements, applicants may become accredited members.

Membership may be lost by resignation or expulsion, the latter done through due

process. In more than five years of its existence, the KM has had a minimum of resignations, and only a handful of its members have been expelled, according to the secretariat.

Its membership is a mixture of intellectuals, students, workers, peasants, and youths from various sectors of society. The organization stresses the common interests of these sectors, which, the KM says, could very well represent the interests of the Filipino people.

Other groups

In the pursuit of its program of action, the KM has joined with other organizations, such as the Samahan ng Demokratikong Kabataan (SDK) headed by Sixto Carlos Jr., Socialist Party of the Philippines headed by Ignacio P. Lacsina, the Student Cultural Association of the Philippines (SCAUP), and other organizations now coordinated by the Movement for a Democratic Philippines (MDP).

To reach as many people as possible, the KM has created discussion groups, contracted teach-ins, head conventions demonstrations, and peoples' congresses.

In Pampanga, for instance, the KM demonstrated against the killing of a Filipino youth by Clark Field security men, at the gate of Clark Field.

On Jan. 25, 1965, the KM organized a big demonstration before the US embassy to denounce parity rights, the Laurel-Langley Agreement, the Mutual Defense Treaty, the SEATO, and other issues on RP-US relations.

Johnson visit

On Oct. 23, 1966, 38 KM activists were arrested by the Manila police for picketing in front of the Manila Hotel where then US President Lyndon B. Johnson stayed during the Manila Summit Conference of US allies in the Vietnam war.

This spurred another demonstration before the US embassy and Manila Hotel the following day.

The demonstration erupted into violence when policemen pounced on the demonstrators who broke through the Hotel gate. Several students were seriously injured, one shot in the neck.

As a consequence of the Oct. 24 incident, students organized the Oct. 24 Movement, led by Enrique Valtierra Garcia II, then chairman of the UP Student Council. The organization held a demonstration before Malacañang, denouncing "police brutality." That demonstration was peaceful with the police keeping their distance.

The KM is subsequently years was to either or actively participate in several demonstrations.

Publications

The KM also published Kalayaan, its official organ, and manifestos, and leaflets on current national issues. It has published literature on the labor movement, land reform, the Vietnam War, US military bases, and other issues.

Because the KM believes in the need for drastic agrarian reforms, it has participated in the formation of peasant organizations, distributing literature in Filipino on land problems, and conducting seminars on the problems of Filipino peasants and farm workers.

Student members of KM who normally went home to their respective hometowns during school vacations spent their time conducting lectures and discussions with rural folk. These activities have been called "politicalization of the masses" and "integration with the masses."

Labor unions

These same "politicalization" and "integration" activities are conducted by KM members in labor unions. The KM helped organize the US Tobacco Corp. Labor Union, which later affiliated with the National Association of Trade Unions.

The USTCLU-NATU successfully held its first strike two years ago but its second strike — in protest of

the dismissal of some union members — was marked by violence when armed men shot at pickets, reinforced by student activists.

During the rash of student demonstrations against school administrations, KM members either were at the vanguard or were active supporters.

School administrators blamed "outsiders" for inciting their students to demonstrate, but the KM argued that the "outsiders" referred to were KM members in these schools.

In Central Luzon, the KM boosted a demonstration of 10,000 farmers from Central Luzon, mostly from Tarlac, held in Manila last year to denounce the "abuses of the PC and army."

Because of its active involvement with peasant and workers, the police and the military have, on several occasions, branded the KM a "subversive" organization.

To this charge, the KM, supported by kindred organizations, had answered that if to fight imperialism, feudalism, and fascism, and to seek to enlighten the broad masses of the people on their miserable condition is subversive, then the KM is subversive.

But as far as the masses of the people are concerned, the KM has emphasized, it has not done, and will not do, anything against their interests.

DOWN WITH FASCISM !

DOWN WITH U.S. IMPERIALISM !

DOWN WITH SOVIET SOCIAL IMPERIALISM !

DOWN WITH FEUDALISM !

LONG LIVE THE STRUGGLE FOR NATIONAL DEMOCRACY !

LONG LIVE THE FILIPINO PEOPLE !

Kabataang Makabayan
14 February, 1970



At least 20,000 students and workers took part in this demonstration on February 18, 1970 which ended in a riot in front of the U.S. Embassy. Among the participating organizations were the National Association of Labor Unions, National Union of High School Students, Jeepney Drivers Association, Youth League Against Fascism, Mapua Institute of Technology Students, and the National Federation of Labor Unions. This was one of the largest of over 30 demonstrations in Manila in 1969 and early 1970 protesting imperialism and neo-colonialism. Other issues were unfair distribution of land, noncompliance with the minimum wage law, representation on university boards of regents, the choosing of delegates for the 1971 constitutional convention, militarism, and corruption.