

## Asian American Caucus For Disarmament



# AACD NEWSLETTER

## NUCLEAR NEWS FROM AN ASIAN AMERICAN PERSPECTIVE

VOL. I NO. 2

MAY-JUNE

### SURVIVALFEST '84

#### Peace, Justice, Survival— The True Spirit of the Olympics

This summer, with the eyes of the world focused on Los Angeles for the Summer Olympics, we will have a unique opportunity and responsibility to send a message to the Reagan administration and to the people of the world that the American people share with the world's people a heartfelt desire for peace, survival and justice.

Survival is a worldwide critical issue as more nuclear weapons are deployed across the globe, as government intervention increases,



Jesse Owens' gold medal in the 1936 Berlin Olympics was a slap in the face to Hitler and the Nazi theory of white supremacy.

and as poverty, unemployment and hunger continue to rise. Survival is a real concern for the American people as child nutrition, job training, education for disadvantaged students, and employment programs, aid to the elderly, the disabled, and families with dependent

*Continued on page 3*

### THE WORLD BANK & U.S. INTEREST IN SOUTHEAST ASIA—

#### Part I: The Philippines

*By David Chen*

*Despite the Reagan Administration's criticism of the World Bank, it has served the interests of the U.S. well in S.E. Asia. As part one of a three part series, this article will show how the World Bank has collaborated with the interests of the multi-national corporations in transferring the burden of the crisis of the Western capitalists' economies to the Philippines.*

#### Secret Pattern of Relationship

In a "top secret" U.S. State Department document dated February 24, 1948 George Kennan wrote that since the United States owned 50% of the world's wealth with only 6% of its population, the U.S. must "devise a pattern of relationships which will permit us to maintain this position of disparity without positive detriment to our national security." All liberal sentimentality must be discarded and "we should cease to talk about vague, unreal objectives such as human rights, the raising of living standards, and democratization." He concluded that the U.S. must "concentrate our policy on seeing to it that those areas remain in hands which we can rely on."

In the 35 years since this document, the U.S. has not only continued to build and maintain its largest military bases in the Subic Bay naval complex and the Clark Air Force Base in the Philippines, it has also enlisted the resources and apparatus of the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, etc., to "preserve the archipelago as a bulwark of U.S. security in the area." Billions of dollars in aid have been poured into the Philippines since the '70s. But today, in 1984, the Philippines stand \$19.3 billion in foreign debt and must borrow an additional \$4 billion to make payment for this year alone. What happened? What were the policies that led to such financial disaster? How was the World Bank involved?

#### Support of Marcos Deemed Beneficial

The 'colonization' of the Filipino economy didn't begin until after the declaration of martial law in 1972. The World Bank assessed and reasoned that the absolute executive power amassed by the Marcos regime under martial law was beneficial to the national economy in enhancing productivity and management effectiveness (sic. "anti-labor"). It made the conscious decision to support martial law and designated the Philippines as a "country of concentration" to receive extra aid. It also imposed upon the Filipino economy a three-prong strategy for economic development: 1) massive lending for rural development; 2) changing the emphasis in industrial policy from "import substitution" to "export-orientation" and 3) massive liberalization of the economy to eliminate protective tariffs and to attract foreign investments.

*Continued on page 2*



**World Bank** *continued from page 1*

**World Bank Benefits Whom?**

Provision of extra aid to the Marcos dictatorship and declaration of repression under martial law as beneficial to the economy is both irrational and against the moral and ethical standards of the international community. Turning its back on human rights and supporting Marcos' anti-labor repressions clearly exposes the lies about "raising the standard of living" on the Philippines. It was an attempt to nurture "a reliable hand" in hope of future cooperation and government capitulations.

The agrarian reform for rural development failed miserably due to the narrow emphasis on productivity and total disregard for the inequalities within the rural areas. Funds directed originally for the small farmers "trickled down" to benefit only the big and the wealthy. Far from achieving income-redistribution, it caused tremendous economic and social dislocation among the small and middle farmers. It created a massive credit failure in 1977 when over 74% of all rural loans defaulted.



*Coconut farmers have lost half their income.*

The Bank-imposed emphasis on "export-oriented" industrialization led to the abandonment of the domestic market as the basis of industrial development. Future growth was to be dependent on volatile and unpredictable external factors. In order to weave the already dependent Filipino economy more tightly into the Western capitalist economies, the Bank imposed an economic model that was rendered obsolete before it began in the Philippines. All the preconditions for this model vanished in the early 70s when prices declined for Philippine exports, "stagflation" reduced the export demands from the industrialized nations, and trade protectionism intensified among nations. The net result of this Bank-imposed plan was the ever-widening trade deficit resulting in mounting foreign debts.

Despite strong opposition from broad sectors of the Filipino economy, the World Bank stepped up its pressure on the Marcos regime to dismantle all protective tariffs and to create an even more favorable climate to lure foreign capital into the Philippines. Real wages of workers were depressed by 25-30%, and as much as 50% among urban workers. It pushed for the peso to be devaluated repeatedly in order to stimulate export demands, all at the expense of domestic inflation and suppression of real wages. To contain the workers' opposition, it recommended a government strategy of selective concessions to divide labor. In view of the pitted interests of the multinationals and the national entrepreneurs, and the fact that domestic pressures are mounting against Marcos, the Bank has devised a new

**BEYOND THE RAINBOW?**

*Victory, on one level, is watching our communities come together... to broaden the base of our leadership and bring about a new level of unity. Winning is working together to build a broad and solid base of progressive individuals... Getting our issues addressed and getting the vote out. Winning is to build the Rainbow Coalition for a long-term fight for our own interest... We are already winning the chance to run thousands of people for local office.*

—Rev. Jesse Jackson  
Presidential Candidate, '84



Asian Americans came to the United States as early as the mid-19th century. But racism and institutionalized racism have to this date denied us political parity, and kept us from participating fully in the American system. In our past struggle for acceptance, we've allowed the politicians and their agents to broker their candidates to us without ever demanding anything in return, in commitment or accountability. We have allowed our precious financial and human resources to be squandered without getting our fair share of attention or concern.

No more. In this '84 Presidential Campaign, for the first time in our history, we hear and see "Asian Americans" included. We hear racial violence against Asians and Asian Americans condemned. We've a candidate who speaks and advocates publicly for providing redress for the Japanese Americans. Moreover, at long last, we have a candidate who articulates BOTH peace and justice in his platform and demands real cuts in military spending. Clearly, we must act decisively and participate fully to support the candidate who has taken firm stands and positions on our dire concerns.

To the voiceless, the lockedout and the downtrodden, the rainbow is already a reality. It is a reality that was borne out of "wedlock" but embraces the hopes and aspirations of all those involved. We are witnessing the transformation of a great social and political movement. It promises to reshape and redefine the political landscape of America. And it's growing. "Our time has come"; we must join in with our brothers and sisters in the rainbow, and carry this Rainbow Coalition beyond the threshold of the 1984 elections. □

scheme to split loans into two separate installations, with the approval for second installations pending on whether the Philippines will open up its economy on schedule. In preparation for the ultimate departure of Marcos, the Bank has already embarked on creating a new government structure which can be separated from personalities, but will be firmly committed to programs designed by the Bank.

In the name of developing the less developed economies of the world, the World Bank has truly moved into the center stage of the Filipino economy to serve the interests of the multinational corporations □

*In our next issue, we'll cover the role of the World Bank in Thailand.*

**Korea on a Short Fuse**

*by Elaine Dong*

**An Explosive Situation**

Unbeknownst to the majority of the American people and peace activists, Korea sits like a silent timebomb... over-militarized and politically volatile. It is like a tripwire, ready to spark a nuclear confrontation. Across the 38th parallel sit the world's 6th and 7th largest armies. Hidden from the U.S. public, the U.S. government has stockpiled tactical nuclear weapons since 1958, in violation of the 1953 armistice agreement. An estimated 700 such weapons are now reported to be stored in South Korea, despite the fact that North Korea is not even a nuclear power. At present, 207,000 U.S. and South Korean troops are participating in Team Spirit '84, the largest peace-time military exercise in Korea since 1945.

Most of the public remains largely ignorant of how explosive the situation is in Korea. Partly at fault is a media that is routinely distracted by seemingly separate incidents. Recently, we watched with uncertainty as news flashed of the September '83 downing of Korean Air Lines Flight 007, and the October bombing in Rangoon, Burma, in which four top South Korean cabinet members were killed; but these "incidents" were quickly overshadowed by other equally volatile news in Europe, Central America, and in the Middle East. Nevertheless, these seemingly disconnected events are all symptomatic of the ever increasing tension between the "East and West," partly caused by the Reagan administration's promotion of "Soviet Phobia."

**Cog in U.S. Containment Policy**

The Korean situation is not an isolated incident or concern limited only to Asians. It is one of the many fronts on which the U.S. continues its foreign policy of containing the Soviet Union. In the recent Fiscal '84-88 Defense Guidance prepared by Casper Weinberger, it is suggested that in the event of war with the Soviet Union, attacks will be launched against North Korea and the Soviet coastal areas to "tie up Soviet forces in defensive roles." (Note: *attacking* North Korea even if North Korea is not at war with the U.S.)

In choosing to conduct a foreign policy that aims at containing the Soviet Union, the U.S. continues to ignore the increasing embarrassment caused by the world reknown human rights violations of the South Korean dictatorship. The U.S. over the last 34 years has consistently been friendly to the dictatorial regimes of Syngman Rhee, Park Chung Hee, and now Chun doo Hwan. One possible rationale is hinted in a section of a 1978 House Armed Services Committee report which reads: "... Korea represents the best possible training ground in the world for U.S. ground combat troops... It is one of the few U.S. bases worldwide where no one is trying to chase us out and no one is trying to raise the rent." While this may be a fact for the Pentagon, the forty thousand American troops stationed in South Korea at \$2 billion a year, the \$210 million in military aid and, the millions more in economic aid to the Chun dictatorship is still not a small sum to be paid when it comes from the pockets of U.S. taxpayers.

1984 has been declared the Year of Korea by the many denominations of the Protestant churches. It is with hope that such worldwide attention will highlight the disparaging human rights conditions in South Korea as well as paying tribute to those who risk their lives fighting for lasting peace and justice in that country. □

**PEACE PAGODA IN NYC**

*By Minn Matsuda*

Plans are proposed to build a Peace Pagoda and Peace Park in New York City on Roosevelt Island. Architect, Louis Mackall, who designed the Peace Pagoda in Massachusetts, would also design the New York Peace Pagoda. Historically a symbol of peace, there are sixty such Peace Pagodas already in existence throughout the world in India, Japan, China, Sri Lanka, England, Austria, etc.

The Nihonzan Myohoji was founded by the Most Reverend Nichidatsu Fujii, who is now in his 100th year. In their belief that the time now is more critical than ever in the history of mankind, they have dedicated themselves to the mission for peace and the erecting of Peace Pagodas throughout the world. In 1982, they undertook the World Peace March to raise worldwide support for the UN Special Session on Disarmament.

A Peace Pagoda on the southern tip of Roosevelt Island would be in direct view of the United Nations; it would be a place away from the pressures of daily living and conducive to meditation on mankind's deep yearnings for peace, a contribution to world peace today.

Persons wishing further information, please call Reverend Ishibashi at (212) 666-6440 or write to Nihonzan Myohoji, Br. Kimiyasu Ishibashi, 41 West 105th Street, N.Y., NY 10025.

**Olympics** *continued from page 1*

children are cut. Estimates show domestic programs will be reduced by \$110 billion to fund the military and to develop more nuclear weapons.

These Reagan policies—nuclear war, military buildup, racism, sexism, intervention in other countries, poverty—clearly go against the true spirit of the Olympics, which has always been a symbol of peace, cooperation and excellence. Yet, Reagan will use the Olympics to "showcase" the U.S. as a nation of prosperity and boost the international image of the U.S. government. It is no accident that Los Angeles, California has been selected as the site of the Olympics rather than Detroit, Cleveland or Toledo, industrial cities which have been virtually shut down with little hope of recovery or employment. California stands seventh in GNP worldwide. This image, with the accompanying Olympic fever, undoubtedly will be used by Reagan in his re-election campaign.

In response to Reaganomics, a powerful movement for peace and justice has been crystallizing and growing throughout the country; June 12, 1982, August 27, 1983, November 12, 1983 are testimony of this movement.

With the eyes of the world on the summer Olympics, we must mobilize this momentum and make a positive statement in the true spirit of the Olympics. We must let the whole world know that American people want peace instead of nuclear war and intervention, justice instead of inequality and deprivation; and funds for human needs and survival instead of weapons of death and destruction. During the week of July 28-August 5, activities are scheduled nationwide, in Honolulu, Wash., D.C., N.Y., Atlanta, Columbus, etc. Contact your local '84 Mobilization for Peace & Justice for information.

*Excerpted from a letter written by Judy Chu and Carol Ono of the '84 Mobilization for Peace & Justice. Ms. Ono, Chairperson of the L.A. Chapter of the Federation For Progress, is also a member of APANA, an AACD West Coast affiliate.*



# Peace Activist Calendar

Every Thurs.: Vigil for Peace 8:30-9:30 a.m. U.S. Mission to U.N.

May 5-6: Freeze Walk. Downstate Nuclear Freeze. For further information call 249-8658

May 5: Revolution and Intervention in Central America. All day. New School For Social Research, 66 W. 12 St., for further information call 929-5105. U.S. Out of Central America Committee.

May 4-13: Peace with Justice Week. Luncheon, May 2, with participants of Peace & Justice '84 Tour. 12-2:00 Dining Room C, 1st Floor, Inter-Church Center, 475 Riverside Dr. Reception - Wine and Cheese May 3, 7-9 p.m. Riverside Church, 9th Floor Tower, 120th and Riverside Drive.

May 20: Swords Into Plowshares - Strategies for Achieving Peace by Congressman Ted Weiss. Sunday, 12-4:30 NYU Law School. Vanderbilt Hall, West 4th and McDougal Sts.

June 7 & 9: Demonstration Against U.S. Intervention in Central America & the Caribbean.

June 7: Non-violent civil disobedience at the CIA office, 26 Federal Plaza, noon. For details call NY Mobe, 673-1808.

June 9: March and Rally. Gather at 11 a.m. Dag Hammarskjold Plaza, march to Times Square for 2 p.m. rally. Call NY Mobe for details 673-1808, or Cispes, 242-1040.

August 5: NY Survivalfest event, call '84 Mobilization for Peace and Justice at 228-8012 for details.

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**ASIAN AMERICAN CAUCUS FOR DISARMAMENT**  
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**NEW YORK, N.Y. 10002**

Dear Friend,

This is our first issue of the AACD Newsletter. We believe that within the context of the larger peace and disarmament movement there is a need for a paper with an emphasis on the Pacific countries as well as issues immediately affecting Asian Americans.

We sincerely hope that you will join us in making this newsletter a meaningful force for force. For further information, please contact us at 499-1637.

**Newsletter Staff:**  
David Chen, Elaine Dong,  
Minn Matsuda, Karen Asakawa

