

Dear Friend,

The Reagan Administration has already welcomed Botha of South Africa and Chun of South Korea - both notorious for human rights violations and flagrant anti-democratic regimes. The third insult is now looming: a state visit from Ferdinand Marcos, president of the Philippines. Fresh from an eight-year seige of martial law, riding the crest of a rigged electoral victory, and "love(d)," by George Bush for his "adherence to democratic principles," Marcos is also contemned by Amnesty International for his gross violations of human rights, convicted by the International People's tribunal of repressing his people and colluding with the United States in perpetuating poverty and misery, and targeted by a rapidly spreading resistance movement in the Philippines which is supported by an international solidarity movement which includes the Philippine Solidarity Network (PSN) and the Coalition Against the Marcos Dictatorship (CAMD).

Why is Reagan not only admitting Marcos to this country, but actually welcoming him with a state visit? Because the Philippines is the strategic lynchpin of U.S. military strategy for the whole Pacific. Clark Air Base and Subic Naval Base, the two largest bases outside of the U.S. are located in the Philippines. These bases were used all through the Viet Nam war, and more recently as the launch pad for the abortive mission to Iran last year. Furthermore, the Reagan administration has taken the side of authoritarian dictatorships to secure U.S. interests world wide, even as those interests create conditions of poverty and resistance which lead to increased destabilization of governments, like the Marcos regime.

These conditions in the Philippines have been exposed not only by Amnesty International and the International Peoples Tribunal, but even by the World Bank in a confidential memo leaked almost a year ago by the PSN/CAMD Congress Task Force.

And now PSN/CAMD is sponsoring a COMMITTEE TO OPPOSE THE MARCOS VISIT. Not just to oppose Marcos, but to oppose Reagan as well - his foreign policy, his militarism, the budget which buys war instead of human services and impacts most severely on minority communities. Therefore, it is important for the progressive American community and the anti-Fascist Filipino community to join together to combat the racist division which is implicit in this budget and take a joint stand against this visit.

To kick off this opposition, there will be a picket at the Philippine Consulate, 447 Sutter Street at noon on September 22, the anniversary of the declaration of Martial Law. We have chosen this day in order to emphasize the fact that cosmetic changes - from Martial Law to Authoritarian Democracy - do not change the substance of repression. We will publically denounce the Marcos Regime and the U.S. Backing of this regime.

DEMAND THE WITHDRAWAL OF U.S. BASES! EXPOSE U.S. AID TO MARCOS!

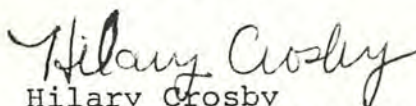
We are also circulating the enclosed petition. Please send signatures to our Congress Task Force, 1322 18th Ave., N.W., Washington, DC, 20036, in time for our September 22 Press Conference when we will turn them over to Congressman Solarz.


We are also seeking endorsements and solidarity messages for the CAMPAIGN TO OPPOSE THE MARCOS VISIT. Please contact Hilary Crosby, PSN, 564-3832 or 621-2493 or Wilma Cadorna, CAMD, 239-4721 with your message and/or endorsement.

Finally, this campaign needs money. Coordinating a nationwide campaign is an extraordinary expense for us. Therefore, we are asking for \$10 for each endorsement, if possible.

If you are interested in helping to oppose this visit in any way, please return the enclosed coupon as soon as possible.

In solidarity,


Hilary Crosby
Philippine Solidarity Network


Wilma Cadorna
Coalition Against the Marcos Dictatorship

